

## THE MELTMINDER

A PUBLICATION BY BENTON FOUNDRY, INC.

Web Site: http://www.bentonfoundry.com

2nd Quarter 2022

### **Exterior Construction Completed**

Benton Foundry is nestled in the mountains of Northern Columbia County in rural Pennsylvania. Our 200+ acres are surrounded by healthy forests and native trout streams. We are also in close proximity to Pennsylvania State game lands. With our current building expansion completed, we wanted to share the view. As they say, a picture is worth 1,000 words. We now have over 225,000 square feet of manufacturing space and are pouring 175-200 tons per day. There is no steam plume, no smoke stack and no process water. For information on our environmental initiatives, please read "Environmental Expansion" on page 3.



### **Long-Standing Employees**





We have 17 employees with over 30 years of seniority and four with over 40 years. Pictured above are 40-year employees. They are Ed Whitmoyer, Tom Foust and Bill Keefe. Absent from the photo is Tim Brown.

Pictured on the left are 30-year employees. Back row Jeff Hall, Ed Whitmoyer, Glenn Cregar, Nathan Foust, Rob Bowman, Tim Kepner, Tom Foust and Albert Phillips. In the front row Mike Machuga, Donna Remley, Dave Eveland, Sherry Steele, Roger Green, Bill Keefe and Annette Brown. Absent from the photo are Tim Brown and Scott Vandine.

Thank you all for your loyalty and your many years of service.

## New Equipment

The image below is one of our two new Laempe LL20 core machines that are scheduled to start production around August 15th.

This was featured at the AFS Cast-Expo in April.







The image in the upper right is one of our two new Foxall robotic grinding cells. We now have eight robotic cells in our fleet (bottom right image) grinding over 75% of all products shipped. The center right image is our two new BCT 34 cubic foot cleaning machines. This equipment was also featured at the AFS Cast-Expo in Columbus Ohio. The image directly above shows our new manual grinding area for lower volume work.



## **Environmental Expansion**

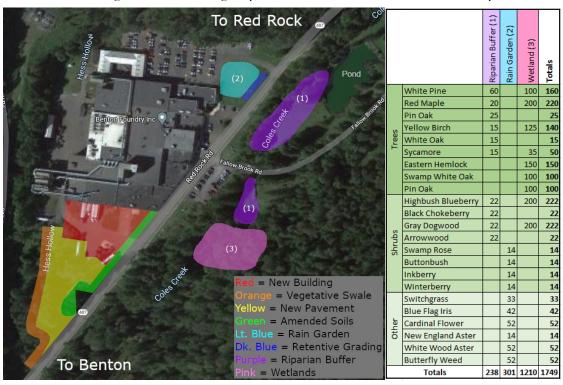
hensive project involved multiple areas and different techniques storm drains. All of these measures were to increase groundwain each. We put the new driveway into a wetland and, as a result, ter recharge and decrease site sediment and organics discharge. had to recreate the wetland acreage several times over. This Rain that falls on the pavement and roof is diverted to the rain resulted in the creation of a wetland across the street by the old garden and the swale at the South end of the Plant. These feaspring house and another up the street at Red Rock Corners. tures effectively clean the sediment picked up by the rain before Both locations are fenced in to protect them from the deer, we discharge clear water to the environment. These major in-These locations have to be inspected and reported to environ- stallations were being done, in part, to satisfy requirements mental agencies for up to a five-year period to make sure they from the Army Corps of Engineers, PA Department of Enviare doing what they are supposed to which is filter rain runoff ronmental Protection, and Columbia County Conservation Disin order to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In trict, among others to get the approval for the construction of addition to the wetlands, we added a riparian buffer which the building. We coordinated extensively with them from conmeans a collection of plants and trees beside a creek or stream cept to completion. The cost associated with these environmenthat serves to keep sediment out of the water and provide shade tal upgrades was well over \$500,000. to keep the water cool.

The wetlands and riparian buffer that we removed were full of robust habitats for land animals, food for birds, and cover for diseased hemlock, insect infested ash, and several invasive species like mile a minute weed and knotweed. To replace them, we created: 1.6 acres of engineered wetlands (2.5 times what was removed) which included plantings of over 1200 native from going into the stream system that eventually ends up in trees and shrubs in our section of High Quality Watershed. We replaced the riparian buffer with a similarly-sized, newlyengineered one containing well over 200 native trees and shrubs in a dirty environment. Benton Foundry has taken a different situated along our section of Coles Creek, a Class A wild trout approach automating and modernizing the facility. Attention is stream. We created a 0.71 acre rain garden and bioretention area paid to people's health and comfort. This approach also extends to take the runoff from our main employee parking lot. This new area houses over 300 more native plants and shrubs, a 0.4 acre infiltration berm and retentive grading, a 0.25 acre amend- suppliers and customers alike. "Benton Foundry is one of the ed soil zone to mitigate some of the highway runoff, a 2.7 acre cleanest foundries they've been in" is the most common re-

uring our expansion, a major change has been made to vegetated swale with check dams and water quality filters, an storm water runoff and how it is handled. This compre- underground extended retention basin, and filter bags at the

> As the installed measures mature, they will enrich the area with fish. They will also add pollution control in the form of nutrient sequestration and filtration. The idea is to put the rain into the ground to recharge the aquifers and to prevent large runoffs the Chesapeake Bay.

> The foundry business has been stuck in images of manual work to the outside of the facility with our clean environment process which gains favorable comments by other foundries, foundry



Thus, extending this mindset to the outside environment, while very expensive, is being done not only to satisfy regulatory requirements, but also our mission statements call to an "ecologically aware environment."

A special thank you goes out to Steve Bason, Professional Wetland Scientist with Cedar Run Environmental; Ted Oman, Professional Land Planner with Oman, Inc.; Aaron Sisler—Civil Engineer with Borton Lawson; and Barry Travelpiece Professional Engineer for the Columbia County Conservation District.

## **Environmental Expansion**



## Congratulations - Employees of the Quarter



Congratulations to **Tim Miller** (above), Benton Foundry's 1st shift Employee of the Quarter. Tim works in our Melt Department as an Iron Pourer. He has been employed since 2003. Tim previously worked at S&B Foundry for a number of years. Tim lives in Danville, with his girlfriend Cathy. He enjoys hanging out at home, when he isn't working. Tim was nominated for this honor as he is a long-standing, dependable employee. He is a pleasure to work with and his amount of experience is invaluable.

Great Job!

Congratulations to **Ray Campbell** (below), Benton Foundry's 2nd shift Employee of the Quarter. Ray works in our Melt Department as a Crane Operator. He has been employed since 2010. Ray lives in Benton, with his girlfriend Linda and daughters Aiyona and Kensy. He enjoys spending time with them when he isn't working. Ray has a wide range of skill sets and he is always willing to help out in any role where he is needed. He is conscientious and brings a pleasant outlook with him.

#### Great Job!



#### Wind Power in the U.S.

The amount of electricity generated by wind power has grown substantially over the past 30 years. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2020, wind turbines generated approximately 8.4% of the total U.S. utility-scale electricity.

As evidence of the increasing contribution of wind power to this country's overall power generation, on March 29, 2022 for the first time ever - wind-based power was the second largest source of electricity (after natural gas-fired power plants) over a 24-hour period.

The U.S. Geological Survey's U.S. Wind Turbine Database reports that, as of January 2022, the U.S. has installed more than 70,800 wind turbines as part of 1,500 wind power projects across at least 44 states and two U.S. territories. Moving forward, offshore wind farms will likely play a bigger role in the U.S. wind power generation.



## **Training Summary**

Benton Foundry believes in upgrading the skill level of our workforce. The following is a five year summary of what was spent on training through seminars, colleges, professional in-house training and other venues such as AFS (American Foundry Society) and DIS (Ductile Iron Society) events. This is for our fiscal year ending below.

03/31/22	\$ 95,974
03/31/21	\$ 65,526
03/31/20	\$103,183
03/31/19	\$129,958
03/31/18	\$115,715
Total:	\$510,356

Various training sources are utilized; however, the most dominant sources of the total are:

Pennsylvania College of Technology		\$160,873
Penn State University		\$ 18,400
		\$179,273

The top three departments are as follows:

Maintenance	\$147,948
Quality & Pattern Shop	\$120,624
Office & IT	\$108,023
Five Year Total:	\$376,595

This investment has been critical to the needed upgraded skill set to compete going forward.

The Benton Foundry mission is premised on a stable, qualified, productive and continually upgraded workforce. These craftsmen enjoy the benefit of state-of-the-art equipment in a safe, coordinated and ecologically aware manufacturing environment. The resultant gray and ductile iron castings are reflected notably in terms of quality, price and punctuality.

"A Good Education is a Foundation for a Better Future."

~ Elizabeth Warren

## Congratulations

## AFS E-Learning Courses Completed During this Quarter: 63

Participants during this time period include: **Kyle Hall, Morgan Hoover, Nathan Lohr, Ana Ponce** and **Nate Suggs** 

Congratulations to Eric Malcein and Teo Grigas for completing their Polyworks training in Michigan.

**Congratulations** to **Ruth Dawson** for completing PSU APA (Advanced Process Automation) classes.

Congratulations to Nathan Steinruck, Cody Bown and Michael McAndrew for completing ABB's IRC5 Basic Programming classes.

Ana Ponce, Cody Snyder and Kyle Hall attended the 3-day ASK Casting Academy in Ohio. This is core room related education.

## Congratulations to the following personnel for the 2nd Quarter 2022.

Luis Cruz Luquis - Highest Grinding Efficiency Maria Higgins - Highest Core Operator Efficiency Myriam Mayorga - Highest Assembly Efficiency Pete Gowin - Lowest Auto Molding Scrap Rate David Straub - Highest Molding Efficiency

#### Good Job!

Thank you to Timmy Schechterly and Joe Tabor for modifying their schedules to meet our maintenance needs.

Thank you to Lynn Sheatler, Dave Yoder, Boane Berg and David Buma for changing the main guide rods in the Large Disa machine.

# AFS (American Foundry Society) Metalcasting Matters for Pennsylvania

The metalcasting industry is vital to the U.S. Economy. Today, Pennsylvania's metalcasting industry continues to support success of U.S. manufacturing through the production of quality castings for automobiles, engines, tractors, military equipment, compressors, medical devices, aircraft, appliances, plumbing, power transmission, boats, turbines and many other critical industries. More than 120 metalcasting facilities manufacture thousands of ferrous and nonferrous castings, making Pennsylvania the fourth-largest metalcasting state in the nation. These foundries, along with their supply chains, provide good-paying jobs throughout the state. Pennsylvania's metalcasting industry contributes \$6.7 billion to the state economy, provides more than 30,000 jobs (direct and indirect) and generates \$2.1 billion in wages.

### Kudos

Benton Foundry participated in the Iron Casting Research Institute's (ICRI) round 50 of Spectrometer Proficiency Testing this spring. This testing measures repeatability and consistency between various technicians within a lab and reproducibility and consistency between different labs. Certified reference standards with unknown concentrations of numerous elements are analyzed and results forwarded to the ICRI. For this last round of testing, Benton Foundry's Lab has had no statistically significant differences for repeatability and reproducibility. The Benton Foundry Laboratory has continually been recognized for consistently high performance in these exercises. Thanks to Ron Steward, Ana Ponce, Jackie Showers, Tim Antoniello, Cody Snyder, Don Copeland, Xenia Ponce and Bill Simback. *Congratulations!* 

Benton Foundry also successfully completed our annual **SRI ISO Certification. Good Job** to Eric Malcein, the team of auditors and all employees involved.

## ABB & Engis

ristian Magliocca recently completed three ABB certification courses—IRC2 Electrical Service, Maintenance Technician and IRB2600/4600 Mechanical Maintenance.

#### Congratulations Cristian!

Cristian expressed gratitude for the opportunity to pursue the career path in our robotic grinding setup and programming. He said he looks forward to utilizing these new skills and continuing to learn more in the future.

Engis recently used Cristian's photograph and one of our Vulcan Foxall robotic grinders in their ad for super-abrasives in *Modern Casting*.



This was also featured in Vulcan's video presentation at the Cast-Expo in April.

If you are interested in furthering your education, please see the Human Resource Department for the opportunities available. Thank you!

## Condolences

#### Brian O'Hearn

Our sincere condolences go out to Brian's family.

Brian worked at Benton Foundry from 2000 until he retired in 2014. He was an outside sales representative covering the northeast. Brian had a great passion and energy for his work. He was



prompt and efficient, handling himself professionally and providing excellent sales coverage for the area. Brian was a joy to work with; he energized all those around him. Brian had previous foundry sales experience working for other foundries including Grede, Dodge Steel, Fuller Company, Buck Company and R.H. Sheppard. Brian passed on July 10, 2022 and he will be missed.

Harry A Martin - our condolences go out to Harry's family. Harry worked on our charging crew for a number of years when we had the cupola melt. He went on to open his own business as an auto mechanic. Harry passed on April 6, 2022.

#### **Tidbits**

A one-inch storm event on Benton Foundry property translates almost exactly to 250,000 gallons of runoff.

Through the **Ductile Iron Society** (DIS) **Benton Foundry** has become a **T-Shirt Sponsor** for the **Foundry Education Foundation** (FEF) supporting higher education in the foundry industry.

70% - The portion of U.S. households with a pet. This is a new high.

Why so jittery? It can take up to 10 hours for caffeine to clear from your bloodstream.

Up to eight years - That is how long a strand of hair on your head can grow before being shed.

AARP.Org/Bulletin July/August 2022

"Every oak tree started out as a couple of nuts who stood their ground."



Henry David Thoreau

### Interns

We have five college interns this summer. They are here for the foundry experience in various departments.

William "Billy" Gustafson, Jr. (Right) - Penn State University (Behrend Campus) - Billy's Major is Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering Certificate & Plastics Processing. Billy is working with Tyler Johnson, Benton Foundry's Me-

chanical Engineer.



Andrew Jubis (Left) - Penn State University - Andrew's Major is Electrical Engineering. Andrew is completing his internship with Tim Schechterly, Benton Foundry's Maintenance Manager.



Nathan Lohr (Right) - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University College of Engineering. Nate's Major is Bachelor of Science, Materials Science and Engineering with a Minor in Engineering Science and Mechanics. Nate has been completing a hands-on rotation throughout the foundry working in our Core, Grinding, Quality Control and Melt departments.







Nate Suggs (Above) - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University College of Engineering - Nate's Major is Bachelor of Science, Materials Science and Engineering. Nate has been completing a handson rotation throughout the foundry working in our Core, Grinding, Quality Control and Melt departments.

**Nicholas Stefanowicz** (Right) - Pennsylvania College of Technology - Nick's Major is Automation Engineering. Nick is completing his internship with Tim Schechterly, Benton Foundry's Maintenance Manager.



### Employee Savings and Retirement Plan

Employe	e Savin	gs and	Retirei	nent r	lan			
	C							
	Balance As Of	ontribution Sour	ce Withdrawals	Gains/	Balance As Of	Vested		
	01/01/2022	Continuation	Without a	(Losses)	6/30/2022	Balance		
EMPLOYER PROFIT SHARING	\$86,282	\$0	(\$2,177)	(\$15,965)	\$68,140	\$68,140		
EMPLOYER MATCH	\$3,406,101	\$90,736	(\$133,848)	(\$605,145)	\$2,757,844	\$2,738,674		
EMPLOYEE 401(k)	\$9,600,880	\$273,797	(\$490,593)	(\$1,684,108)	\$7,699,976	\$7,699,976		
EMPLOYEE ROLLOVER	\$257,349	\$0	(\$12,079)	(\$31,356)	\$213,913	\$213,913		
BENEFICIARY TOTAL	\$0 \$13,350,613	\$0 \$364,532	\$0 (\$638,697)	\$0 (\$2,336,574)	\$0 \$10,739,873	\$0 \$10,720,704		
TOTAL	φ13,330,613	Activity By Fund	(\$038,097)	(\$2,330,374)	\$10,739,873	\$10,720,704		
Balance As Of Contributions Withdrawals Exchanges Gains/ Balance As Of								
	01/01/2022				(Losses)	6/30/2022		
American Funds New Perspective Fund A	\$756,783	\$14,879	(\$6,958)	\$0	(\$206,618)	\$558,086		
American Funds Growth Fund of America A	\$1,756,284	\$34,198	(\$25,522)	(\$127,338)	(\$510,442)	\$1,127,180		
American Funds Fundamentallnv A	\$875,191	\$15,090	(\$19,679)	(\$3,936)	(\$180,220)	\$686,447		
American Funds American Mutual Fund A	\$959,677	\$16,107	(\$30,251)	\$126,187	(\$89,324)	\$982,397		
American Funds American Balanced Fund A American Funds Bond of America A	\$1,805,846 \$378,001	\$43,465 \$11,936	(\$367,602) (\$24,950)	(\$100,585) \$2,041	(\$218,248) (\$38,758)	\$1,162,878 \$328,270		
American Funds SMALLCAP World Fund A	\$796,894	\$14,717	(\$3,478)	(\$21,911)	(\$245,370)	\$540,852		
American Funds New World Fund A	\$286.846	\$6,835	(\$2.805)	\$0	(\$68,803)	\$222,073		
American Funds Capital Income Bldr	\$326,186	\$7,477	(\$7,505)	\$0	(\$31,598)	\$294,560		
American Funds Cap World Growth IncA	\$320,676	\$7,086	(\$3,097)	\$0	(\$68,665)	\$255,999		
American Funds Inv Company Of Ameri	\$189,148	\$7,341	(\$4,813)	(\$62)	(\$37,367)	\$154,248		
MFS Mid Cap Growth R3	\$204,586	\$6,899	(\$2,571)	\$2,041	(\$62,698)	\$148,257		
VanEck Global Resources A	\$271,924	\$14,453	(\$4,722)	\$240	(\$4,542)	\$277,353		
Invesco Gold And Spec Minerals R	\$734,193	\$24,092	(\$11,558)	\$37,515	(\$210,892)	\$573,351		
American Funds Money Market Fund A	\$1,629,559	\$58,244	(\$74,709)	\$85,899	\$1,360	\$1,700,352		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2020A	\$42,536	\$918	(\$14)	\$0	(\$5,046)	\$38,394		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2025A	\$336,189 \$639,040	\$12,488 \$8,705	\$0 (\$5)	\$0	(\$47,563) (\$101,860)	\$301,114 \$545,880		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2030A American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2035A	\$78,661	\$6,705 \$6,656	\$0	(\$0) \$0	(\$14,873)	\$70,443		
American Funds Tigt Date Ret 2039A  American Funds Tigt Date Ret 2040A	\$595,687	\$9,985	\$0	\$0	(\$119,469)	\$486,203		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2045A	\$51,077	\$11,384	\$0	\$0	(\$11,631)	\$50,831		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2050A	\$204,068	\$14,140	(\$1,922)	(\$0)	(\$44,571)	\$171,715		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2055A	\$57,802	\$2,648	(\$46,538)	(\$89)	(\$5,956)	\$7,867		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2060A	\$45,465	\$11,012	\$0	\$0	(\$11,178)	\$45,299		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2065A	\$8,293	\$3,776	\$0	\$0	(\$2,244)	\$9,825		
TOTAL	\$13,350,613	\$364,532	(\$638,697)	(\$0)	(\$2,336,574)	\$10,739,873		
	12/31/2017	ce Per Share By Ft 12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	6/30/2022		
American Funds New Perspective Fund A	\$43.16		\$47.26	\$60.49	\$66.41	\$48.38		
American Funds Growth Fund of America A	\$49.54		\$51.13	\$67.54	\$74.30	\$51.77		
American Funds Fundamentallnv A	\$62.21	\$52.29	\$62.02	\$69.15	\$75.96	\$58.75		
American Funds American Mutual Fund A	\$40.80		\$43.52	\$44.61	\$53.15	\$48.30		
American Funds American Balanced Fund A	\$27.15		\$28.50	\$30.20	\$33.47	\$28.57		
American Funds Bond of America A	\$12.89		\$13.09	\$13.79	\$13.39	\$11.86		
American Funds SMALLCAP World Fund A	\$55.80		\$58.83	\$79.55	\$80.03	\$54.50		
American Funds New World Fund A  American Funds Capital Income Bldr	\$66.92 \$62.82	\$57.36	\$70.55	\$87.95	\$86.03	\$65.58		
American Funds Capital Income Bidi American Funds Cap World Growth IncA	\$51.11	\$56.33 \$42.81	\$63.32 \$52.28	\$63.01 \$59.39	\$70.16 \$63.67	\$62.52 \$49.64		
American Funds Inv Company Of Ameri	\$40.39		\$39.57	\$44.42	\$51.80	\$40.89		
MFS Mid Cap Growth R3		400.01	<b>,</b>	\$28.02	\$30.71	\$21.40		
VanEck Global Resources A				\$33.51	\$39.21	\$38.81		
Invesco Gold And Spec Minerals R	\$15.74	\$13.64	\$19.88	\$26.63	\$24.82	\$18.92		
American Funds Money Market Fund A	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2020A	\$12.56	\$11.69	\$12.96	\$13.75	\$14.26	\$12.54		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2025A	\$13.44		\$14.07	\$15.39	\$16.09	\$13.85		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2030A	\$14.42		\$15.16	\$16.80	\$17.79	\$14.97		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2035A	\$14.84		\$15.77	\$17.85	\$19.53	\$15.98		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2040A	\$15.20 \$15.43	- 3	\$16.20 \$16.51	\$18.57	\$20.61	\$16.51 \$16.95		
American Funds Trot Date Ret 2045A	\$15.43 \$15.10		\$16.51 \$16.22	\$19.00 \$18.72	\$21.21 \$20.98	\$16.85 \$16.51		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2050A  American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2055A	φ15.10	\$16.92	\$20.29	\$23.45	\$26.32	\$20.56		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2003A  American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2060A		\$11.24	\$13.56	\$15.72	\$17.75	\$13.84		
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2007A		Ş <b>.</b>	, 13.33	\$14.58	\$16.81	\$13.10		
* Share price does not reflect fund dividends.			l		, , , , , ,			

\* Share price does not reflect fund dividends.

### **Birthdays**

#### August

Dale Engle Lily Schechterly Adolfo Barrientos Kyle Hall Steve Lappan Glenda Briones Hunter Hardy Tina Bizup Beth Litwhiler Clayton Fields Tom Boatman Dustin Burke Roger Green Eric Piatt Billy Ribble Sean Royer Nate Steinruck Jacob Beckwith Emma Haug Mike McAndrew Kaden Mohr Kolby Mohr Ed Evans Isabella Kubasek Walt Lutcavage

#### September

Lori Nafus
Julia Guiso
Bryanne Lynn
Reba Winders
Shawn Nevel
Tim Kepner
George Bagdoyan
Dave Travelpiece
Logan Urcuiolio
JR Peterson
Bill Keefe
Eric Malcein
Ruth Dawson
Andrew Ritinski
Tracey Kindler

#### October

Sherry Steele
Jaiden Sponburgh
Yordi Garcia
Aaron Nunez
Dave Gangle
Ana Ponce
Tyler Dezinski
Tim Schechterly, Jr.
Chris Newhart
Tom Vandine
Luis Cruz
Gordon Gottshall



## **B**

#### Want



\$500?

### Company Referral Plan

Refer a Potential Employee to Lou (Before They Come In) If Hired, After 90 days of Employment You Get \$250.

After 6 months of Employment You Get Another \$250.

I R O N Y



Types of Irony | English ...

## Trivia Question???

What is the softest mineral in the world?

Answer will be in 3rd Quarter 2022

Answer from 1st Quarter question:

What was Fritz Hall's favorite marketing campaign of the 1970's? The Pet Rock

### "The Wisdom Well"

"Collecting more taxes than is absolutely necessary is legalized robbery."

~ Calvin Coolidge President 1923-1929



The Benton Foundry Newsletter is written for the purpose of keeping employees updated on the events surrounding the happenings at Benton Foundry. The intent is to inform and to a certain degree entertain. The foundry in no fashion wishes to demean or embarrass. If anyone has been offended by this publication, please accept our apology. We will be diligent in an attempt to avoid any situations. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and are happy to hear any recommendations to improve it.