



The Block Connection

Customer Delight
Since 1920



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS & DESIGNERS

Issue 121

FEATURED PROJECT

American Airlines-GEM Building



The new Ground Equipment Maintenance Building for American Airlines, which Block Electric recently completed to replace the original building that is being displaced by the Runway 9C-27C project.

Block Electric recently completed a new Ground Equipment Maintenance Building for American Airlines to replace the original building that is being displaced by the Runway 9C-27C project.

The new facility features storage of ground equipment, 30 maintenance work bays, a vehicle fluids distribution system, a vehicle wash facility, and employee work spaces. The 60,000 square foot building finished on time despite the cold winter conditions our electricians endured last winter.

The project was virgin grounds to most of our employees due to the extremely tight

security access and airport rules and regulations.

"Martin Will and his crew did a fantastic job managing the extreme weather conditions, the security access restrictions, the accelerated work schedule and more than 200 change requests on this project," Project Manager Jerry Hughes said. "Marty and his crew have proven again that quality is not an act, it is a habit."

A special thank you to all who sacrificed their summer by working long hours to bring this project in on time. "Your efforts went a long way to make FH-Paschen consider us on future projects," Hughes said.

(Continued on page 3)

Vice President's Message



We are off to a very strong start to our new year. What we originally thought was going to be a pullback in construction projects has

been full steam ahead. Healthcare spending is making a comeback and the Institutional markets have continued to stay strong.

Some of the larger projects we have added to the backlog are the Peoples Gas North Shop facility and the Joliet In-Patient Facility.

Peoples Gas new service center is going to serve Chicago's North Side for day to day field orders and maintenance. This facility alone is expected to create around 250 temporary construction jobs.

The Joliet In-Patient facility is a 210-bed in-patient Illinois Department of Corrections treatment center. This project will provide 24/7 treatment to male and female offenders with severe mental illnesses. The overall construction is expected to employ roughly 200 union workers.

Some of our other notable upcoming projects include the following:

- CSH Highland Park – Senior Living Facility
- John Marshall Law School – Classroom Buildout
- Silver Cross Hospital – Cardiac Care Remodel
- UCMC Bernien and Maurer Labs – Lab Buildouts

(Continued on page 2)

Vice President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

■ Stepan Chemical – Various Projects

As you'll read about in this newsletter, at the end of 2018, we put the finishing touches on the American Airlines GEM building. This facility is going to maintain all the vans, trucks, and equipment vehicles that service American Airlines planes and ground crews.

For Block Electric, it was the largest project we had ever completed at O'Hare Airport. Under tight schedule constraints, the harsh winter elements, and an accelerated schedule, the Block team turned this project into a success.

Thank you to all who worked on this project under the leadership of Senior Project Manager Jerry Hughes and General Foreman, Martin Will.

It is going to be another busy year for Block Electric. I'm very excited for the position the Block Team is in and for the challenges yet to come.

— SCOTT BLOCK
Vice President, Block Electric



Spotlight On: Todd Giusto FOREMAN

Before beginning his career as an electrician at Block Electric in November of 1995, Foreman Todd Giusto worked at Berry Bearing Company assembling control panels.

"The unique thing about being an electrician is we are highly trained to perform a specific job," said Todd, who decided to become an electrician after he received his Associate's Degree in Applied Science from DeVry University.

Todd said he spends most of his time working on projects at Christ Hospital, which has allowed him to develop a good customer-client relationship.

"The experience I am most proud of is the customer service relationship that I have developed at Christ Hospital," Todd said. "With this relationship, I have been able to uphold the philosophy of customer delight." Some of his most recent projects included the ACL Lab and the Elevator Upgrade.

Unlike the consistency of being mostly in one place while at work, Todd's personal life has him running in all different directions. "Our family is

constantly on the go," said Todd, who is a busy father of five children between the ages of 12 and 22.

Todd and his wife Lisa recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. The family has lived in Mokena since 2000.

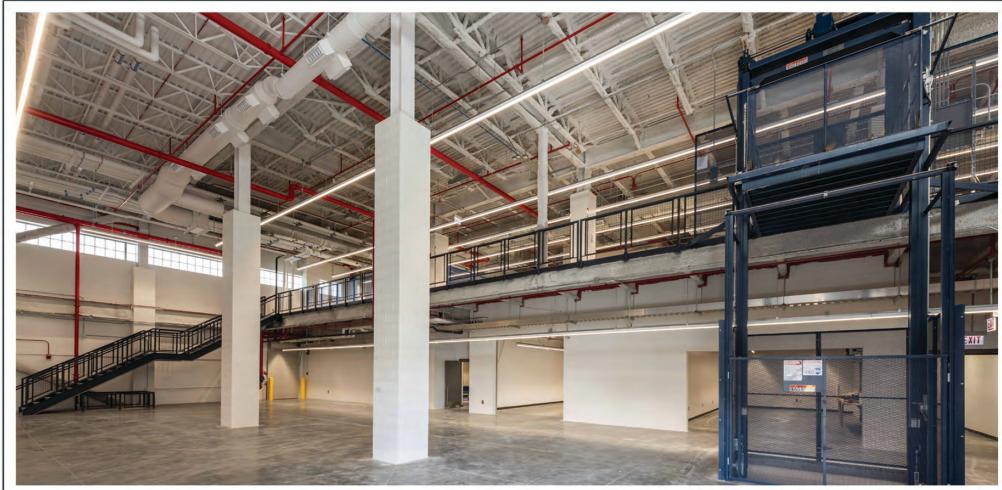
Lisa is a nurse and works for Rush University Medical Center. The couple's two oldest daughters are in college. Morgan, 22, is set to graduate in May from Northern Illinois University's School of Nursing. Margaret, 20, attends Governors State University and is in the speech therapy program. Erin, 17, is a junior at Lincoln Way East High School and is very busy looking at colleges. Their two youngest sons are both in grade school and dedicated to sports. They are busy year-round with baseball, football and basketball. Daniel, 14, is in eighth grade and Timothy, 12, is in sixth grade.

The family's dedication to sports doesn't stop with the boys. Todd coaches two travel baseball teams, as well as his sons' football and basketball teams. "We also enjoy going to White Sox games, even though I am the only Sox fan in the house," Todd said. "Yes, they are all Cubs fans."

What's something most people don't know about Todd? He had perfect attendance from fifth grade through senior year of high school.

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**NEW IDEAS NEEDED...
WIN A VISA GIFT CARD!**

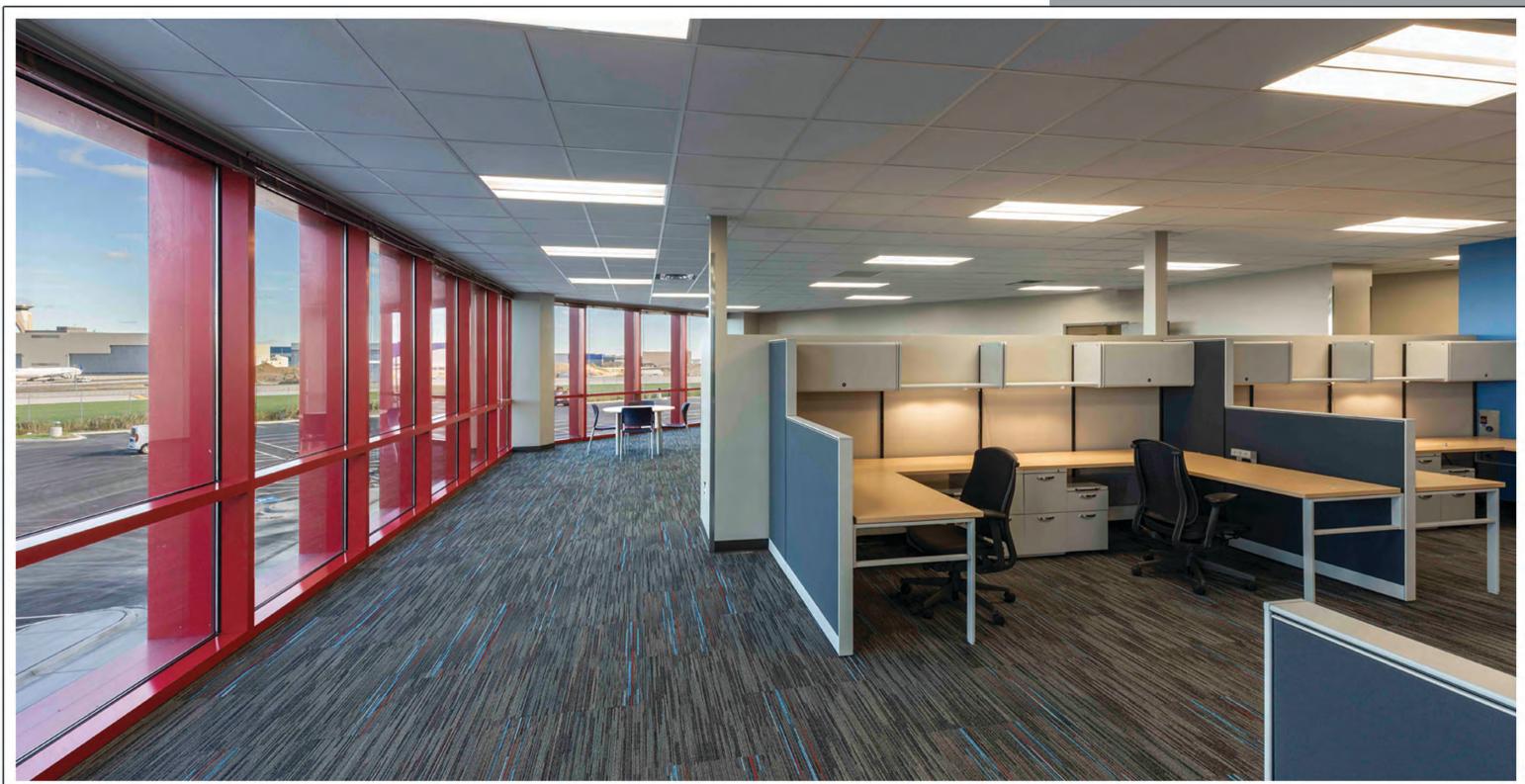
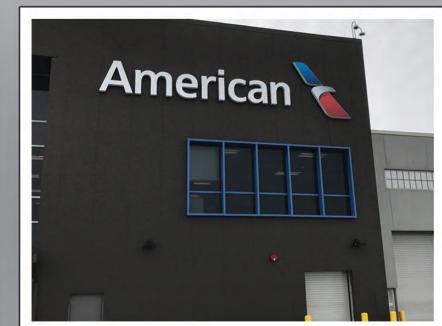
The Importance of Using Prefab

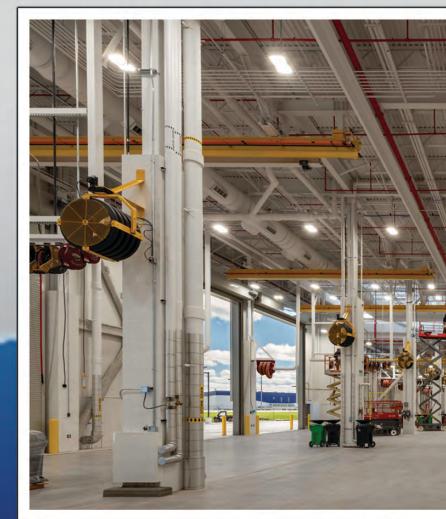
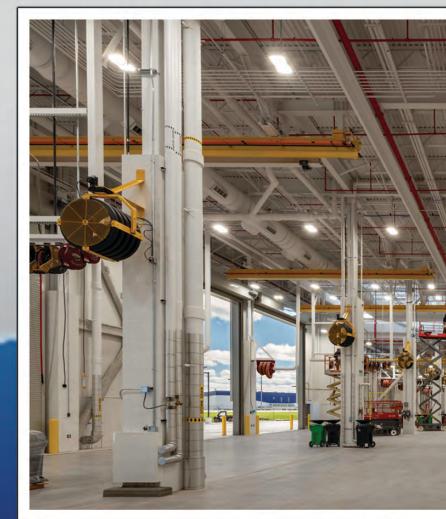
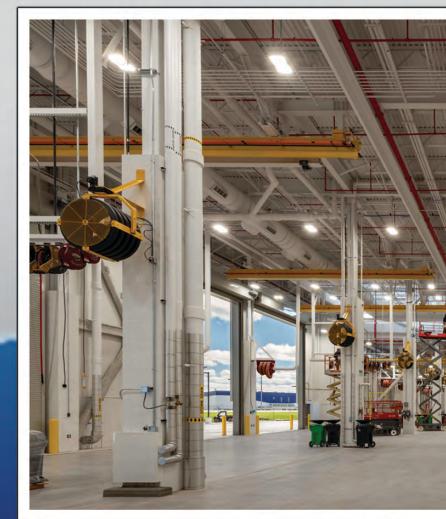
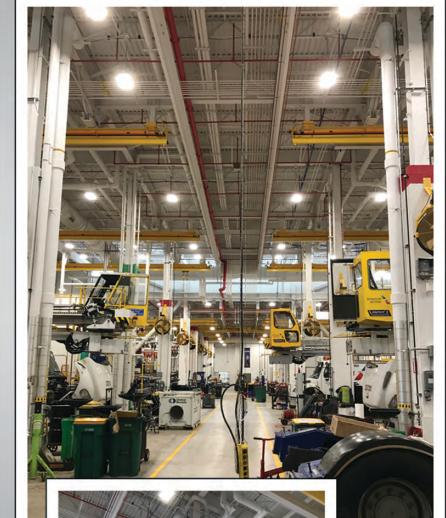
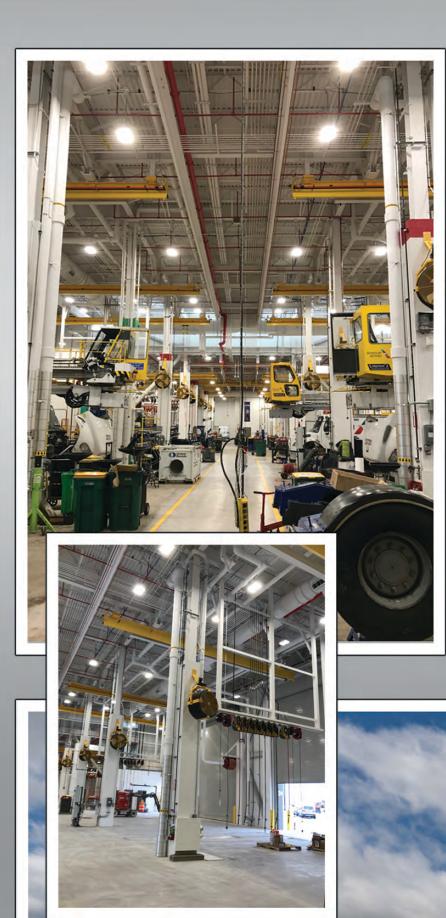
Reminder to use prefab for all in-wall boxes. This should be done on EVERY Job!

Can't get a bender on site quick enough? No problem, contact Luke to have all your conduit pre-bent.

From temporary to trim, items should be built in the prefab shop.

Contact Luke Simpson for further information and ideas.





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Milestone Anniversaries

Block Employees Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following employees who recently celebrated a milestone anniversary with Block Electric:

Jeff Keltz, 35 years on February 1, 2019.

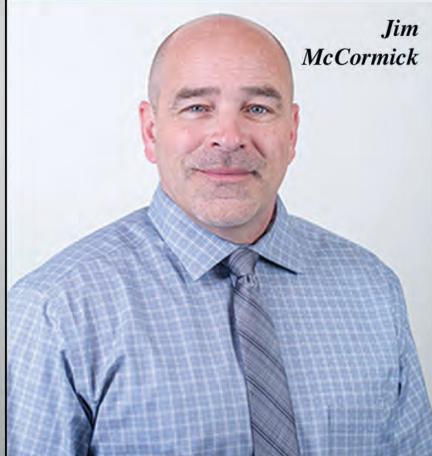
Jim McCormick, 25 years on January 25, 2019.

Thank you for being part of our company's success over the years. We greatly appreciate and value your hard work and success. Happy Anniversary.

**Jeff
Keltz**



**Jim
McCormick**



FOCUS ON SAFETY: Back Injury Prevention Tips



Did you know? Back injuries account for 1 in 5 workplace accidents

by *United Services Group*

Did You Know? Back injuries account for 1 in 5 workplace accidents. Lifting heavy items is one of the leading causes of injury in the workplace. When employees use smart lifting practices they are less likely to suffer from back sprains, muscle pulls, wrist injuries, elbow injuries, penal injuries and other injuries caused by lifting heavy objects. The best way to prevent back injuries is to develop habits that reduce the strain placed on your back. The following are some basic things you can do to help prevent an injury:

Proper Lifting Procedures:

- Take a balanced stance with your feet about a shoulder-width apart. One foot can be behind the object and the other next to it.
- Squat down to lift the object, keeping your heels off the floor. Get as close to the object as you can.
- Use your palms to get a secure grip on the load, making sure you'll be able to maintain a hold on the object without having to switch your grip later.

- Lift gradually using your legs, abdominal and buttock muscles and keep the load as close to you as possible. Keep your chin tucked in so as to keep a relatively straight back and neckline.
- Once you're standing, change directions by pointing your feet in the direction you want to go and turn your whole body. Avoid twisting at your waist while carrying.
- When you put a load down, use these same guidelines, in reverse.

Avoid Lifting & Bending Whenever Possible.

- Anytime you can spare your back the stress and strain of lifting and bending, do so!
- Place objects up off the floor: If you can set something down on a table or other elevated surface instead of the floor, do it so you won't have to reach down to pick it up again.
- Raise/lower shelves: The best zone for lifting is between your shoulders and your waist. Put heavier objects on shelves at waist level, lighter objects on lower or higher shelves.
- Use carts/dollies, when available, to move objects instead of carrying them yourself.

Use cranes, hoists, lift tables and other lift-assist devices whenever you can.

Block Electric's Safety Policy

It is our policy to provide all employees with a safe, healthful, and hazard-free work place. The intent at all times is to comply with the provisions of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA).

Block Electric recognizes that accident prevention and efficient production are interrelated. We further recognize our responsibility to provide adequate training, safeguards and safety equipment for each employee. In turn each employee bears the responsibility to comply with all safety regulations and the use of required safety equipment. The safety and well being of our employees has been and will continue to be of primary importance.

Our EMR is .78 and our Contractor Score is 2390. Phil Casto is our safety director.

Block Electric Scholarship Application Deadline: April 30

The application deadline for the annual Block Electric Scholarship is Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Application instructions are listed below and are in your Team Member Handbook. Submit all applications to: Ms. Pauline Staab, Porte Brown Accounting and Consulting, 1752 Capital Street, Suite 400, Elgin, Illinois 60124

Scholarship Eligibility/ Application Instructions

Block Electric is committed to the success and achievements of the people who make up our company. We are also interested in promoting the achievements of the next generation of individuals. In order to help accomplish this, we offer a partial scholarship program to our people for their children who are interested in attending college. The funding is made through Block Electric Co.

Eligibility

The following persons are eligible to apply for a scholarship:

1. Children of a Block Electric Co. employee. The employee must be employed by Block Electric for at least five (5) years prior to application.

2. The applicant must have maintained a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale during the last two (2) years of high school, or if presently attending college, a 2.5 average in the last complete year.

3. Applicants must be seeking enrollment or enrolled in a four year accredited college or university.

4. Prior recipients can also be eligible. They must re-apply annually, and must have maintained a 2.5 grade point average while attending college.

5. Children of the officers of Block Electric Co. are not eligible to participate.

Scholarship Amounts

Individual scholarships of \$2,000.00 will be made available. A maximum of three (3) scholarships will be awarded each year.

Selection Criteria

Selections of recipients will be based on the following:

1. Selections will be made by the independent accounting firm of Porte Brown.
2. In the event that more than three applications

are received in any year, eligible applicants who have not received a scholarship from Block Electric Co. in prior years will be given precedence.

3. At least two-thirds of the annual awards will be made to children of field personnel. Field personnel are defined as Apprentices, Electricians or Supervisors.

4. In the event that more than one application is received from the same family, the second family applicant will receive an award only if there are less than three other eligible applicants.

Application Process

All applications must be in writing only and sent to: Ms. Pauline Staab, Porte Brown Accounting and Consulting 1752 Capital Street, Suite 400, Elgin, IL 60124

Any questions can be directed to Ryan Underwood at 847-647-4030.

The application is simply a letter written to Ms. Pauline Staab stating the following information:

1. Name, address, telephone number and social security number of the applicant.
2. Name of parent of applicant.
3. Name and address of college or university to be attended.

4. The applicant's high school and/or college (in the event of re-application) should be instructed to send the applicant's transcripts to Ms. Staab at the above address.

5. A summary of why the applicant is in need of this scholarship.

The deadline for the application, along with the other information, is April 30. The selection and notification will be made by May 31.

Other

Block Electric Co. reserves the right to change the eligibility, scholarship amount, and selection criteria at any time.

REGISTER NOW! Walk & Roll Chicago Saturday, June 8

Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph



Please join Team Block Electric for the 47th Annual American Cancer Society Walk & Roll on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL. Same beloved event, same life-saving mission, but with a brand-new location and warmer weather!

There's still time to support Team Block Electric for the annual American Cancer Society Walk and Roll. To sign up for Team Block Electric, go to: <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/blockelectric>. Click on either "Join a Team" or "Donate Now".

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Donna Dreksler or Crissy Sorensen at 847-647-4030 or ddreksler@blockelectric.com or csorensen@blockelectric.com..

One Day. One Goal. Four Ways to Roll.

Walk & Roll Chicago is the longest-running cancer fundraiser in Illinois. For the past 47 years, people from all over Chicagoland have gathered for Walk & Roll to support the American Cancer Society. This one-of-a-kind event offers participants of all skill levels the opportunity to walk 5K, run 5K (timed), skate 10K or bike 15K to raise funds and help save lives from all cancers.

Bring your family, neighbors, and coworkers and help us celebrate cancer survivors and caregivers! Be sure to stick around for our kid's dash, picnic, DJ, live band, and so much more!

Block Electric Company
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Niles, Illinois 60714



Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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to see our website!

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