

the Y-12 times

A newsletter for employees and friends of the Y-12 National Security Complex

WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 2

Y-12 submits Voluntary Protection Program application

Page 3

Preparing for the big freeze while temperatures soar

Page 4

Quitters setting an example

Page 5

Meet the YES board

Page 8

Apprentices compete in Nashville

Volume 11, No. 6

July 2011

www.y12.doe.gov/news/times.php

P.O. Box 2009
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8245

B&W Technical Services Y-12, LLC, a partnership between Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group Inc. and Bechtel National Inc., operates the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Managing Editors

Amy Alley:
alleyab@y12.doe.gov
Heidi Spurling:
spurlinghw@y12.doe.gov

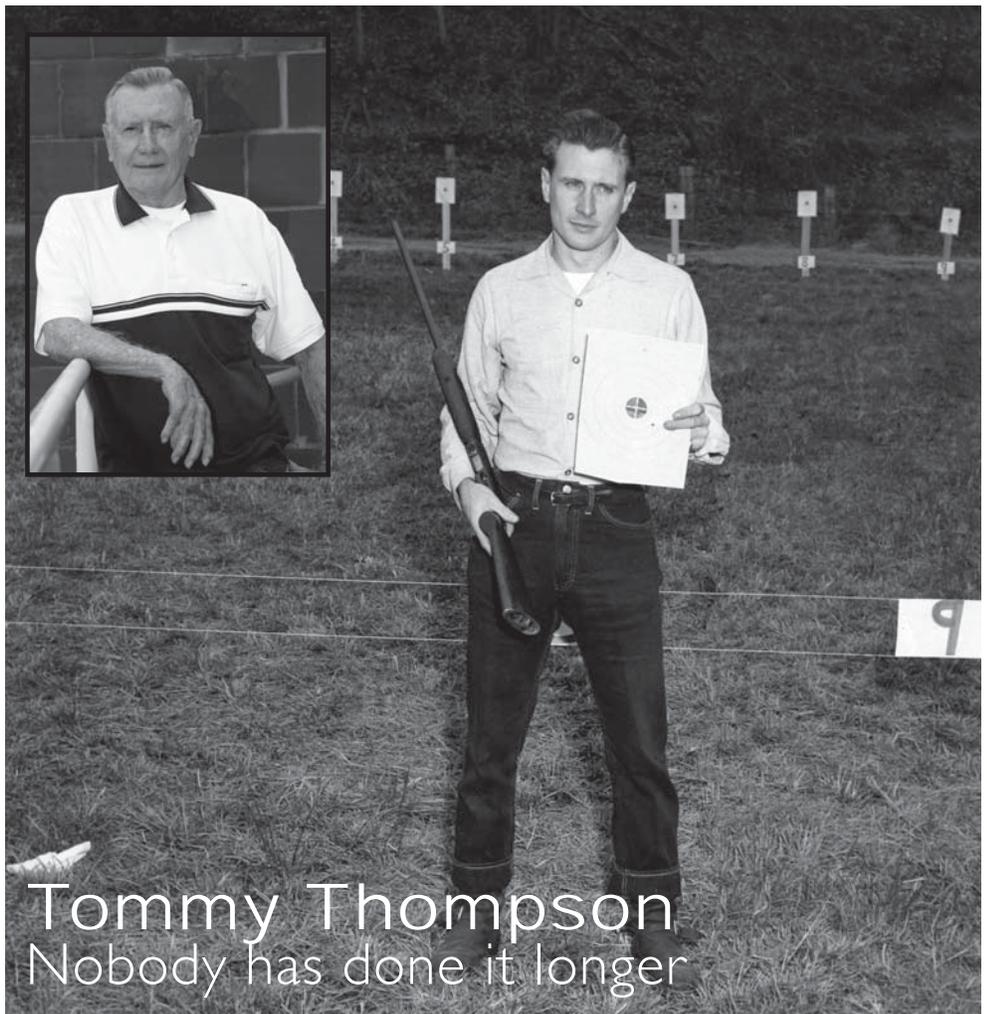
Layout

Lisa Harris

Contributors

Ellen Boatner
Ashley Douglas

Kathy Fahey
Scott Fraker
David Keim
Jill McNutt
Brett Pate
Eric Swanson
Brian Wagner
Donna Waston
Mona Wright



Tommy Thompson Nobody has done it longer

On May 7, 2011, James E. “Tommy” Thompson celebrated a remarkable achievement. With 60 years of company service, Thompson has been employed at Y-12 longer than anyone else — ever.

How did he reach such an impressive milestone? Perhaps it's because he has always found something to enjoy about his job.

When, at age 22, he hired on as a helper in the Inspection Department, he found Y-12 humming with vitality. “It was a beehive of activity,” he said, “and there was a lot to do outside work at company-sponsored events like dances, softball, fishing rodeos and turkey shoots.”

As he moved on to chemical operator in 1953, an engineering aide in 1965, a supervisor in 1968 and a foreman in 1975, his help perfecting production methods brought more responsibility and recognition as a valuable team member.

Since the mid-1970s, his work has been in processing various metals, and his talents remain highly appreciated. “He’s hardworking, and I’d say his corporate knowledge of operations is unmatched,” said Terry Tindell, a co-worker and manager.

“Tommy Thompson has had an exemplary career serving his country. We’re so proud that he has reached this remarkable milestone at Y-12,” commented Darrel Kohlhorst, president and general manager. “The work we do is highly specialized, and having someone with Tommy’s long history is invaluable.”

Is it time for Thompson to take his lunchbox and go home? Maybe not just yet. “This retirement thing is turned around,” he said. “I needed more time off when I was younger.”

When rifles were the sporting weapon, Tommy Thompson, longtime Y-12 employee, seldom left a 1960s turkey shoot without winning one of the big birds as top prize. Inset: Today, Thompson is Y-12’s “go-to” guy.

Continuing the journey



Y-12's Safety for Life journey continues, and on June 8, Y-12's application for the Voluntary Protection Program was signed by VPP Champion Bill Klemm and

submitted to the Y-12 Site Office for review and approval.

"Submission of the VPP application reinforces the commitment and the seriousness of the journey we have before us," said Mike Thompson, Atomic Trades and Labor Council vice president. "The standard is high, so we can't just apply and then rest. We have to press on."

Several sessions of the VPP Road Show have already been held, but more sessions are planned. During these meetings, employees

learn more about the VPP journey and what they can do to participate in the journey.

ATLC President Steve Jones said, "We believe the safety of Y-12 employees to be of utmost importance. Submitting the VPP application proves our commitment."

Employees, subcontractors and visitors to Y-12 should view the Safety for Life journey as **V**aluable, **P**roactive and **P**ersonal. Every employee is valuable in ensuring we have safe workdays. We must be proactive and let others know where there are safety concerns. Lastly, we all must make safety personal.

"Every one of us should be open and mindful of an opportunity to make our surroundings more safe, both on and off the job, for ourselves and our co-workers," Thompson said.

The Safety for Life journey will be achievable with everyone working together to make every day a safe day.

INTEGRATED FUNDING: Key to Building 9212 air-handling unit replacement

Replacement of aging infrastructure systems at Y-12 is becoming commonplace, but the unusual circumstances surrounding Building 9212's air-handling unit called for a unique funding solution. "It needed to be replaced," said Mike Richesin, Infrastructure Programs. "The air-handling unit of Building 9212 had far exceeded its design service life."

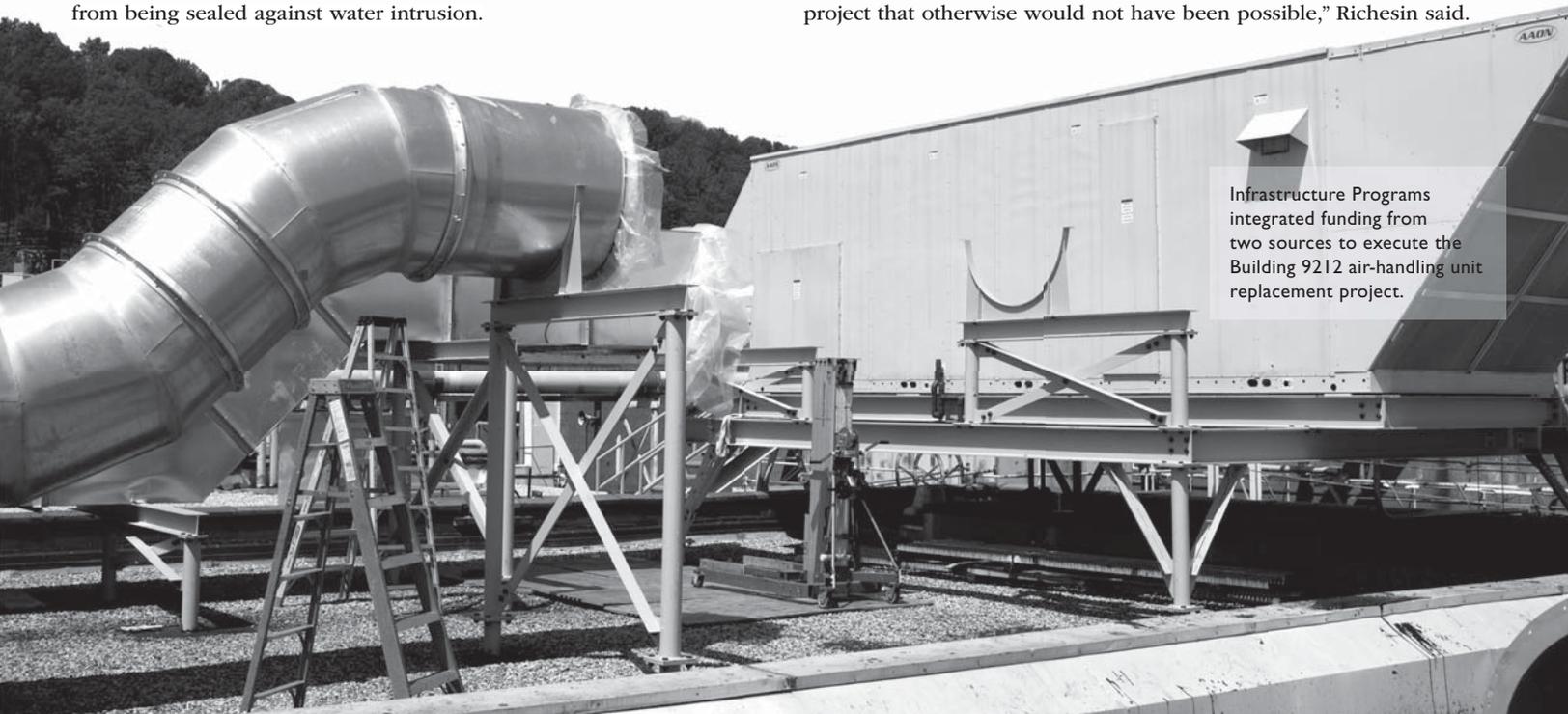
"The old Miller-Picking air-handling unit had been installed directly on the roof deck of Building 9212 in a utility enclosure," explained Richesin. After decades of use, water leakage and steam condensation inside the enclosure had caused the roof to leak beneath the unit. When the building roof was replaced a few years ago, the surface under the unit remained inaccessible, preventing it from being sealed against water intrusion.

Further complicating the situation, the old air-handling unit could not be removed until a new unit was installed to provide temperature control to the 11,804-square-foot area it served.

Fortunately a workable solution was available. "We were able to fund the air-handling unit replacement by integrating two different funding sources," said Richesin. Operations of Facilities funded installation of the new unit, while the Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program funded demolition of the old unit and the roof repair.

The new unit was relocated to the east end of the building. After it was operational, demolition of the old unit and replacement of the roof below the unit began. Both were completed in about three weeks.

"Taking an integrated approach allowed us to address a needed project that otherwise would not have been possible," Richesin said.



Infrastructure Programs integrated funding from two sources to execute the Building 9212 air-handling unit replacement project.

A vital role and positive attitude

Building Manager Ronnie Clark says he's proud of all the janitors who work in his buildings. "They can be counted on to do not only their normal routine job but also any additional tasks without complaint and with a positive attitude. I want them to know that I appreciate their hard work."

According to Diana Johnson, supervisor for the janitorial and laundry departments, a janitor's role is vital to the presentation of Y-12. Just a few of their duties include cleaning and stocking all restrooms, break rooms, offices and hallways; emptying the trash; cleaning the change houses; and stripping and waxing all floors.

"Every day is different," Johnson said, "You meet all types of people, which can be a challenge. It may not be 'glamorous work,' but a janitor must still maintain a positive attitude. I have great respect for the janitors at Y-12 by seeing what they deal with firsthand."

Janitor Debra McCabe says her parents simply taught her that hard work would be expected in life. "They told me to always do my best."

The janitors service approximately 80 buildings at Y-12. "The janitor crew is doing an outstanding job with the demands that are on them," said Johnson. "If you see a janitor today," she hinted, "a 'thank you' goes a long way."



Building Manager Ronnie Clark (left) wants janitors, including Debra McCabe, to know how much he appreciates their hard work.

Employees solve freeze issues while temperatures sizzle

While last summer's record high temperatures had most of us thinking about ways to stay cool, the newly formed Freeze Protection Committee was making preparations to protect the Y-12 site from potential damage due to winter weather conditions.

"The committee has several objectives that focus on prevention and minimization of facility damage due to cold weather conditions," said Bill Tindal, deputy manager of Production and committee chair. Freeze protection includes protection of critical services, such as fire systems and heat tracing of outdoor above-ground water systems.

All Y-12 divisions are served equally on the committee by representatives from Production Facilities; Environmental Management Excess Facilities; and Facilities, Infrastructure and Services to ensure work orders are prioritized fairly and lessons learned



Pipefitter apprentice Nathan Poe works to protect Y-12 from potential winter weather damage.

are shared. The committee ranks work orders based on progress and conditions. The result: more comprehensive freeze protection coverage across the site.

"Before the committee formed, everyone was working their own issues," said Jane Hatfield, manager of Maintenance Centers.

"The committee helps provide an overall plant focus for planning, coordination and execution. We all have the same target, the same goal."

Al McLendon, manager of Compliance and Facility Specialists, added, "Previously freeze protection jobs were targeted September through April, but now it's a yearlong effort with a group focus."

The Freeze Protection Committee's efforts are proving successful. "At the end of March, 77 percent of all freeze protection jobs had been completed," said Rob Jago, manager of East Maintenance Center/Technical Processes. "We've seen an outstanding effort by Y-12 employees to identify and resolve freeze protection issues."



Several Y-12 men agree: "If you don't ever start, you never have to quit."

Inspirational quitters

It's hard to quit something you love — no matter how bad it is for you. For a group of Y-12ers, it took major wake-up calls to quit dipping tobacco.

These men held each other accountable after a close friend and co-worker was diagnosed and treated for throat cancer in February. Noah Sexton, a brick mason, called it quits immediately. "I needed to quit for a long time, but his diagnosis was my incentive. The second day was, by far, the hardest, but I stayed occupied and it got easier," he said.

"Has it been easy? I've definitely struggled," said Steve Byrge, West End Janitorial supervisor, who began cutting back in February. "But I sleep better and feel better in general," he said. Byrge didn't mention his change at first, but his wife began noticing a difference. "That was my cue that I was on track," he said.

Laborer Brian Curry initially quit in November 2010 when his father underwent triple-bypass surgery. He attributes his co-worker's diagnosis in February to his continued resolve. "I used to dip just to dip," he said. "It was a mindless habit. But cancer runs in my family, and my dad quit smoking for his surgery. My mom quit. I figured I should stop, too."

David Sohm, a truck driver, said that he realized how easily it could've been his own diagnosis. He had dipped since he was 12 years old and said it's important for those who struggle with quitting to remember that "it's the hardest thing you'll ever do, but well worth it."

Building relationships and trust

Members of the five diverse areas of the Chief Financial Officer Division worked together recently to "outwit, out play and outlast" their competitors in activities that encouraged communication, teamwork and leadership.

The exercise was intended to create trust and mutual support by allowing teammates to connect on a personal level, creating rapport and camaraderie. Together, staffers from the CFO organization work to keep the financial wheels humming at Y-12, but many seldom interact with each other.

"The team-building activity taught me a lot about my co-workers," said Clay Irby, Benefits, Tax and Payroll Accounting.

Beverly Gibson, from Budgets, said, "We talked and laughed so much and learned to work together even though we were from different areas."

The CFO Professional Development Team, with representatives from each of the five areas in the CFO Division, was chartered to promote educational and personal development activities. The 97 CFO Division employees participate in group activities or individually in Web seminars and classes.

"Our goal is to provide opportunities for individual and job performance improvement," explained Terri Thrower, lead for professional development activities.

"The CFO management team felt like this was a great opportunity to put people together who often don't work closely," said Rob Gifford, CFO. "It allows everyone to meet and create bonds and relationships."



CFO staffers took turns passing each other through a web of string, guiding each other through multiple mazes while blindfolded, and participated in other strategic problem-solving tasks during their routine team-building activities.

Meet the 2011–2012 YES board

What do egg hunts, softball games, trips, gifts for children and vendor discounts have in common? If you answered Y-12 employees, the answer is YES! The newly elected Y-12 Employees' Society board members are in place and preparing to continue providing fun and money-saving projects for members. YES was created to enhance morale of Y-12 employees by organizing recreational, charitable and community service activities. Teri Spradlen, YES president, said, "We have a great group of enthusiastic volunteers that have big hearts and fun ideas." Since it was chartered in 2001, YES has increased employee involvement in many areas.

Along with other health and wellness programs at Y-12, Zach LeVasseur, YES sports director, said he "hopes to provide opportunities for all levels of athletes to get motivated and feel the rush that comes from friendly competition and adventure."

For information on YES events, contact any YES board member or visit the intranet website (<http://home1.y12.doe.gov/yes/>).



Front row, from left: Jessica Smith (membership), Zach LeVasseur (sports), Kimberly Bryant (treasurer), Charlotte Schaefer (travel), Mona Wright (publicity) and Teri Spradlen (president). Back row, from left: Jim Anderson (vice president), Peter McKenzie (tickets), Erick Loveland (Angel Tree), Amanda McKinney (events) and Suzie Housley (vendor discounts).



Harold Ketterer volunteer extraordinaire

Former Information Technology Manager Harold Ketterer devotes himself to so many charitable groups it's hard to list them all. In fact, his decision to retire early was based on spending more time volunteering.

Ketterer puts his considerable hands-on computer abilities to use for Habitat for Humanity, the Free Medical Clinic in Oak Ridge and Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties. Much of what he does is taking apart donated computers and reassembling their parts into new computers. "The organizations don't have money to buy equipment, so you have to be really resourceful," he explained.

He also participates in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, where he is "big brother" to a very smart 11-year-old boy. "I'm loving every minute," he said.

Then there are his frequent visits to Haiti (pictured), which began years before the earthquake devastation. He's helped with free medical clinics and done a lot of manual labor. Ketterer said he marvels at the resilient Haitian spirit. "It's extremely emotional to see the living conditions, and you often feel that what you're doing is a drop in the bucket."

His last trip was in August, when the volunteers reroofed a school. Manually moving tons of building materials from a street about 100 yards away was a major test of stamina in the 90-degree heat. "I've never worked so hard with so much joy," he said.

Around Y-12 ...

- To celebrate more than 5,700,000 cumulative safe work hours (more than seven months) Y-12 employees were treated to an ice cream social June 21. Bill Klemm, deputy general manager, told employees, "This achievement is another example that shows we are serious about safety and are striving to become a Voluntary Protection Program star-status site. As you begin work each day, I encourage you to continue Safety for Life."
- Some 700 participants from across Tennessee, 20 other states and the District of Columbia visited the Y-12 National Security Complex June 18 as part of Oak Ridge's Secret City Festival. Participants toured Y-12's first building – Building 9731 – which was completed in March 1943. Visitors also received an overview of the 2.5-mile-long site from atop Chestnut Ridge, learning about the transformation of the World War II-era site into the nation's Uranium Center of Excellence and storehouse for weapons-grade uranium.
- Joel Duling was named vice president of Production effective June 14 and replaces Les Reed, who is retiring in July. Duling comes to Y-12 after 13 years at Idaho National Laboratory. He has more than 25 years of experience in management and 20 years of experience in the nuclear field. Bill Tindal was appointed deputy manager of Production; Tindal joined Y-12 in 1995. Reed Mullins was appointed acting manager for the Production Facilities Department until this position can be filled through the company hiring process.
- Y-12 honored six small businesses for their exceptional contributions to Y-12's missions during Fiscal Year 2010 at the Annual Socioeconomic Programs Awards Luncheon held June 8. Honored as Y-12 2011 Small Businesses of the Year were: Services: Gem Tech Y-12 LLC; Materials: Associated Fabrication and Container Sales; Construction: Stein Construction Company Inc.; Disadvantaged: AMARC LLC; Woman-Owned: ETE Consulting Engineering Inc.; and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned: Ingenium Professional Services Inc. Six Y-12 employees also were acknowledged for their role as small business advocates: Matt Carr, Lisa Copeland, Patty Rose, Bob Shnider, Dennis Hough and Jerome Miller. Y-12 Site Office Manager Ted Sherry highlighted the role small businesses and entrepreneurs play in America's economic recovery. "Not only have we – the Y-12 National Security Complex, B&W Y-12 and you, our small business partners – met these high standards, but we have surpassed them," Sherry said.
- Congratulations to the Y-12 bike team that participated in this year's Knoxville Tour de Cure and was the second highest corporate fundraiser. The 20 riders raised more than \$8,000 for the American Diabetes Association, with this year's Y-12 team having its best fundraising effort in the 20 years of the event.
- The Y-12 Relay for Life Team exceeded its \$30,000 goal by more than \$10,000 thanks to employees' support during this year's campaign. Y-12 was recognized as the top fundraiser for the Oak Ridge Relay held June 3 and 4 and received the Spirit Award.
- Dave Beck joined Y-12 in May as vice president of Productivity. He is responsible for leading Y-12's integrated sitewide initiative to assess and improve the creation and delivery of products and services. Beck worked at Y-12 for 22 years in a variety of roles including director of Manufacturing Technology Services, leaving in 1999 to go to work for the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. After five years at DOE, Beck worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory, most recently serving as the deputy principal associate director for Weapons Programs. Beck, a Bechtel employee, replaces Nancy Johnson as vice president of Productivity. Johnson was named vice president of Business Services and Performance Assurance in February.



Nine-year-old Preston Spaulding admires a glove box in Building 9731, while his father, Bob Spaulding, a subcontractor employee with B&W Y-12, looks on.



46 years

Production: Harvey L. Stevens

43 years

Production: Millard N. Wilkerson Jr.
Quality Assurance: Ronald P. Allen

42 years

Compensation Management: Daniel D. Cottrell
Resource Management: Victoria Steward

41 years

Plant Services: Amos R. Chandler
Production: Charles H. Neal
Quality Assurance: Gary W. Eckert
Resource Management: Erby L. Harris and Thomas R. White
Utilities Management: David Vann

35 years

Engineering: Daniel G. Ailey, David L. Hueser, Thomas J. Read and Sandra L. Travis
Maintenance Execution: Dennis E. Sharna
Production: John A. Gray, Willie Mae D. Harris, Donny R. Hedgecoth and Gary C. Spradlen
Resource Management: Claire A. Hoffman, Charles D. Massengale and Michael D. Randolph

30 years

Communications Services: Mona G. Wright
Engineering: Tina M. Young
Maintenance Support: Wesley C. White
Occupational Health Services: Nancy C. Underwood
Plant Services: Anne M. Lee
Quality Assurance: Steven J. Dekanich and David A. Waldrop
Stockpile Programs: Thomas H. Thrasher

25 years

Budgets: Sherry L. Neal
Industrial Hygiene: Marilyn R. Griffin
Procurement Operations: Joseph M. Holbrook

20 years

Budgets: Brian S. Foster
Emergency Services: David L. Byrge
Engineering: Kenneth D. Keith Jr.
Environmental Management: Denver D. Foust and Robert A. Hudson
Ethics and Internal Audit: James C. Nobles Jr.
Maintenance Support: Carl R. Cunningham, Mary L. Mitchell and Derick K. Ollis
Personnel Security: Christy W. Gay
Production: Michael D. Adcock, Bobby W. French, Robert S. McLain and Michael A. Quick
Program Management: Keith A. Pilcher
Projects: Carol D. Blile
Quality Assurance: Michael W. Burgess and Jeffrey G. Gates
Resource Management: John D. Freshour, Joe B. Griffin and Michael C. McManus

United Way Kickoff

Sept. 7

Contact: Michelle Culp
574.6634

P.O. Box 2009
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8245

PRSR
STD
PAID
U. S. Postage

Permit #36
Powell, TN



Pipefitter Tracy Miller, the first female to compete in Tennessee's United Association State Apprenticeship Contest, is gearing up for next year's competition.

Hitting the mark

Two third-year Y-12 apprentices journeyed to Nashville recently to represent Y-12 and the Local 718 Union in the United Association State Apprenticeship Contest, which is focused on testing the skills of pipefitters; heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning technicians; plumbers and welders throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Neither Rodney Howard nor Tracy Miller had participated in the contest before. Howard, however, placed third in the HVAC competition. "It was really hard on the nerves," he said. "I didn't expect to place considering all the other contestants had been there before, but the competition was a motivator because it showed me what to work on for next year."

Miller, a pipefitter, was the first female to ever compete in the Tennessee state competition. "It was definitely a challenge but I certainly plan on competing again next year and making U.A. history," said Miller. She found it a great learning experience and said, "The scenarios made us think independently and forced us to come to our own conclusions. It was such an experience, that I'm still taking it in."

John Whalen, Atomic Trades and Labor Council Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee chairman, plans to hold a local competition next year and take even more Local 718 members to the state level. "We supply apprentices; our business is training the best craftspeople in the industry," he said.

Whalen said that those who won at the state level will go on to represent Tennessee at the district level and then join the five other districts at the nationals. "I couldn't be prouder of Tracy and Rodney," said Whalen. "They both did amazing jobs, and I'm sure we'll see them competing again next year."