



February 2025 Edition

## A MESSAGE FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP



### A Heartfelt Farewell as I Retire

After almost 42 years with Lezzer Lumber Company, it is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement, effective March 31, 2025. As I reflect on my time here, I feel incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to work for such a remarkable company and alongside the most dedicated team of employees in the industry.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Lezzer family for all the opportunities they have given me over the years. Their unwavering support and vision have been a constant source of inspiration, and I truly feel privileged to have worked for such a

great family. The trust and kindness they've shown me have shaped my career in ways I cannot adequately put into words. I've been blessed beyond measure.

With the influx of several 4th generation Lezzer family members joining the ranks, along with the existing leaders, aspiring leaders, and over 500 dedicated, hard-working team members, I step back knowing that the Lezzer bench is full of the best people in the business. Ken and Maurice's legacy will continue to thrive and grow, and I have full confidence in the future of this great company. It's truly an exciting time for the company, with continued focus on growing within our markets and the exploration of new ones. Maurice Lezzer often said "If you don't go forward, you go backwards. There is no standing still. You gotta go one way or the other. If you don't go forward, that's the end of it." This powerful mindset has been the foundation for everything we have achieved, and I know that the company will continue to embody that spirit of progress and innovation as we move into the future.

With growth comes challenges but time and time again, this amazing group of people have overcome every challenge that presents itself. This year alone, we've dealt with a computer

system conversion, an election year, and a myriad of other challenges that could have derailed the train but we came out the other side stronger than ever. A true testament to the outstanding group of people that make up The Lezzer Lumber Company!

In closing, I would love to add a few Maurice Lezzer stories from my initial hiring process to all the “coaching” moments we shared but there just isn’t enough time or space to list them all. I’m sure every employee has their own fond memories and stories of Maurice or other fellow employees we have worked with and become friends with. That’s the part I’ll miss the most.

Mark Swatsworth

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## **LEZZER LUMBER ELITE LOCATION**

**FAMILY • INTEGRITY • PRIDE • PASSION**



We're thrilled to announce that our Reading location, led by Kaethe Huber, has won the first-ever Elite Location Award! This award recognizes excellence in operations, facility organization, and performance—and our Reading team delivered! From showroom upgrades to top-tier yard efficiency, they've set a new standard. Huge thanks to our incredible team for their dedication and hard work. You make Lezzer Lumber stronger every day!

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## **WHERE IN THE WORLD IS LEZZER LUMBER?**



Kip Sopic, Dave Lezzer's grandson sporting a Lezzer hat at Disney World!

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## LEZZER NEWS

### February Soup Cook Off

Our Pennsdale location had a great soup cook off with 10 entries! They tallied all of the votes and the winner was..... Kathy McKeown, by 1 vote. They pulled all the tickets and had a 3 way tie between soups and while cleaning up found 1 ticket that had not been counted and it was hers! Congrats, Kathy.



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### Career Fair

Career fair season is officially underway, and Cecilia Surovec and Emily Johns had the pleasure of attending Thaddeus Stevens College's annual internship and





job fair. This is their third year attending, and it's always a fantastic experience. Over the past two summers, they've welcomed three talented interns to the Mill Shop in Lancaster, each recruited at this very event. All three impressed them greatly, and full-time offers were extended upon graduation. They're excited to continue strengthening the partnership with Thaddeus Stevens as they help cultivate the next generation of skilled professionals! Up next: Penn College of Technology and IUP!

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## Community Support

At Lezzer Lumber, we're proud to continue our tradition of supporting local organizations that make a difference in our community. Each year, we contribute to the CC4H Robotics team, helping them build the tools they need to succeed. This year, our State College store donated \$250 worth of lumber to support their ongoing efforts. We look forward to continuing this partnership and watching these talented students push the boundaries of innovation and teamwork!



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## Groundhog Day Celebration

Emily Johns, Employee Development Specialist, attended the Groundhog Day celebration in Punxsutawney, PA on February 2nd.

Where did this tradition come from? Dating back to 1887, the practice arose from the early European Christian holiday Candlemas Day. The occasion marked the halfway point between the winter and spring equinoxes, with clergymen blessing used candles and handing them out to locals every February 2.

If the weather was bright and clear during the celebration, people believed the remainder of the season would be long and difficult. However, if it was dull and cloudy, it



meant spring was on the horizon.

The holiday was embraced by the Germans, who added a hedgehog to the proceedings. If the sun was shining and the mammal saw its shadow, winter would linger. If it was overcast and the hedgehog didn't see its shadow, then spring would come early. German settlers brought the tradition to Pennsylvania in the 19th century, swapping the hedgehog for the local groundhogs.

The first community celebration of Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney was in 1886. The holiday was first observed statewide in 1887 and was hosted by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club in Gobbler's Knob. It was also the year that locals brought in Punxsutawney Phil.

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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Jason Good, Indiana Assistant Store Manager

I originally started at Lezzer Lumber after high school in 2002 and worked my way up from just a yard guy, to driver, to becoming the shipping and receiving clerk before leaving in 2007. I was in corrections for the next 14 years as a correctional officer. I returned to Lezzer Lumber in March 2022 as Inside Sales and was recently promoted to Assistant Store Manager.

One of my hobbies is hiking, me and my newlywed wife (just got married on March 1<sup>st</sup>) love hiking on our days off and visiting waterfalls across Pa. Something I also love doing is cooking. I am the main

cook in the house and love tackling a new recipe. I love my job and what I do. The customers are a lot better than what I use to deal with, and I love the challenges every day brings. I love the culture and the family that is Lezzer Lumber.

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## SAFETY REMINDERS

### Spring Wellness Tips

1. **Shake Off the Winter Slump:** With longer daylight, take advantage of outdoor activity. A quick walk after work can boost energy and mood.
2. **Adjust to the Time Change:** Daylight saving time just kicked in, so your sleep might be off. Get morning sunlight and avoid screens before bed to reset your rhythm.



3. **Spring Clean Your Workspace:** Clear out clutter, replace worn-out safety gear, and check expiration dates on first aid kits. A clean space is a safer space.
  4. **Stretch & Move:** If you're working on a job site or at a desk, take breaks to stretch and prevent muscle strain.
  5. **Beware of Spring Storms:** Keep an eye on the forecast and be ready for sudden rain, wind, or temperature drops.
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## RECENT PROJECTS



Look at this amazing VRBO build in State College, PA! This place looks absolutely amazing. This project featured Hartco hardwood flooring, Wellborn kitchen cabinets, a Samuel Mueller shower, a Bertch bathroom vanity and Marvin Elevate Windows, all sold at Lezzer!

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Do you have an idea for an announcement, event, success story, co-worker shoutout, or department update we could feature in next month's newsletter? We'd love to hear from you! Please send submissions to [ceciliasurovec@lezzer.com](mailto:ceciliasurovec@lezzer.com) for consideration.

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**EARN**  
**\$1000**  
**WHEN YOU REFER  
A NEW EMPLOYEE**

Get  
**\$500**  
for you AND your  
referred hire  
after 90 days.\*

Then  
**\$500**  
for you AND your  
referred hire  
after one year.\*

\*Bonus applies to full-time positions.  
Contact HR for more information.





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