



# CHICAGO DRUG & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED IN 1900 – OUR 120<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

President, Megan Peboontom

Vice President, Bob Miller

Secretary, Chris Wrobel

Treasurer, Heather Grimm

[WWW.CD-CA.ORG](http://WWW.CD-CA.ORG)

NEWSLETTER ■ SEPTEMBER 2020

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## **Announcements**

### *Silent Auction*

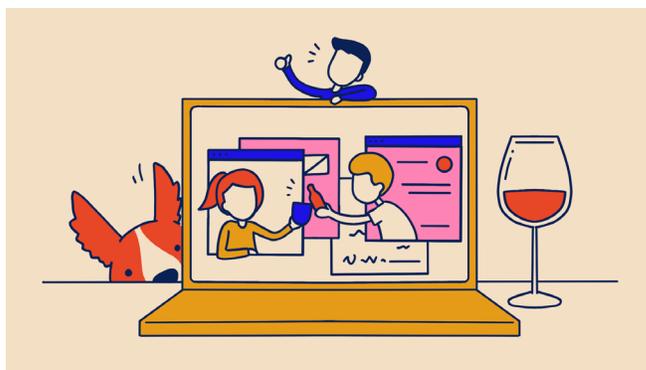
With a heavy heart, your CD&CA Officers & Directors announce that we will not have a Silent Auction at our Annual Meeting this year.

Your Education Committee and Board members thought long and hard about this and, due to the pandemic, had to make this decision.

We WILL still have our Annual Meeting on November 5th, which will include giving scholarships, all while practicing the normal social distancing rules.

### *Cocktails and Chat*

Join us online for a virtual happy hour on September 24th at 4:00 PM.



Greg Hinton • Lou DePasquale • Larry Kelly • Jim McHatton • Derek Paulowski • Scott Heck • Joe Brudzinski Jr.  
• Jeff Nelson • Laurie Pedziwiatr • Tim Doody • Ex Officio: Cheryl DePasquale

Dawn Drass, Executive Administrator  
DIRECTORS 2020

## Summer Fun for CD&CA Members

*Even in the Pandemic CD&CA members tried to make the most of the summer season.*

Tim Ryniec's son, Sean, has been playing a lot of tournaments out of state. These pictures are from a baseball tournament in Kentucky, where he pitched in the championship game. Sean pitched a complete game and the team won 6-2.

While in Kentucky, Tim took time between games to visit Three Boys Distillery and sample bourbon out of the barrel. Per Tim, "Baseball and bourbon, what else do you need during COVID?"



Steven Griffin vacationed with his Kids Hanna-15 and Guerin-10 in Marco Island, FL. They had a great time on the pontoon boat, fishing and shelling. Tons of conch and sand dollars were found at Keewaydin Island. Steve was the only one to catch a fish, but it was a channel catfish, so does it really count? They made it out of Florida before the COVID situation had spiked much.

They also visited Steve's mother, Claudette Griffin (widow of James Griffin, former President and Board Member of CD&CA). They had to take his Mom in for emergency surgery while they were down there, but don't worry, Claudette is doing just fine. Steve says they still talk about many great memories over the years with members like Gary and MaryBeth Zielinski, Joe Seeler and Bob Arquilla. God rest their souls. They are probably up with Steve's Dad enjoying a cold beverage and some golf.

Claudette says hello to her current and former CD&CA friends and family.

## *Summer Fun for CD&CA Members, continued*

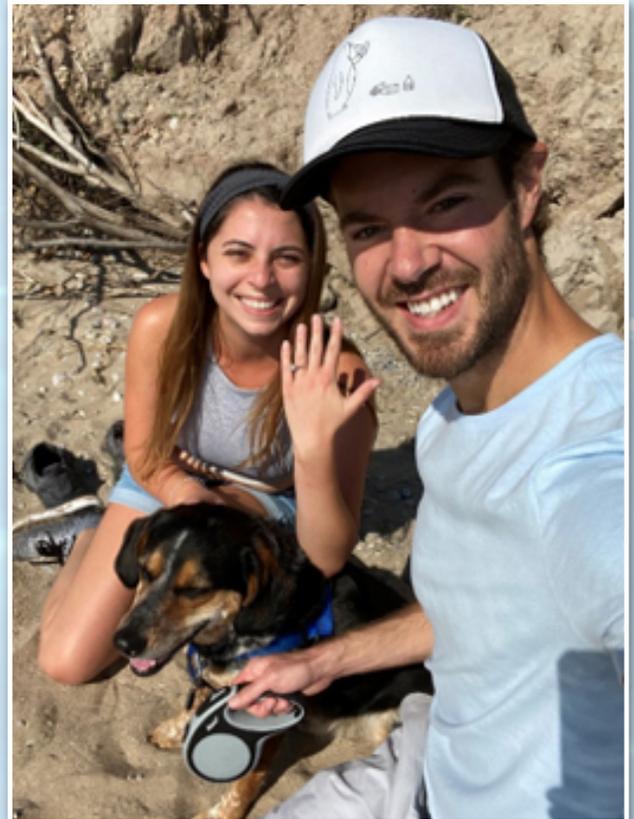
Lisa Kringas has not done much at all. Her company is on a Travel Ban (like everyone else) and she is working from home.

She made a COVID-cake in a 3D ball cakepan, and decorated it with sprinkles and licorice candy.

In addition she welcomed a new puppy, Shadow the Akita, who was born in February. Shadow even helped drive them to Aspen, Colorado to visit their son.



Katie Drass (daughter of Dawn Drass, Rowell Chemical and CD&CA Administrator) got engaged to Brad Narlow on Sunday, 8/16. Also, in the picture is their dog Jaxson.



## Additions to the Family

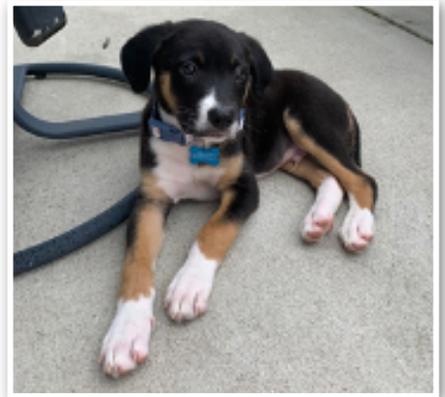
Chris Wrobel and his wife Meg visited our Grandson (Jackson Reece Wrobel, born July 16, 2020) last week in Westminster, CO. Proud parents are our son Andrew and Daughter-In-Law Hannah.

They watched their 1st Blackhawks game together on Sunday, August 2nd!



John LeDonne's daughter, Nicole, had a baby girl on July 15. Madeline Valerie came into the world just after midnight. Everyone is doing fine. Nicole was a CD&CA scholarship winner.

Angela Marino added a puppy to her family. Plenty of time at home means plenty of time to train a puppy. His name is Dougie and he's a sweetheart.



## Get to Know the CD&CA Board Members

**Name:** Larry Kelly

**Company, Title and role at Company:** Sales at EMCO Chemical Distributors

**Family Info:** Married to Anne and have 4 kids (Patrick, Brenna, Erin, and Meghan) and 3 grandkids (Jackson, Owen and Sydney)

**Favorite Food:** Not too particular, but if I had to pick it would be Italian

**Favorite Phrase:** "at the end of the day"

**Favorite Place to Visit / Vacation:** Lake Michigan

**Activities / Hobbies:** golf, walking, drinking beer (all at the same time)

**Two or three things you cannot live without:** water, food and air

**One thing people might be surprised to know about you:** I was a Green Bay Packers fan growing up



## Edward Polen, President and CEO of EMCO Chemical Distributors, Inc.

In 1966, after graduating from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Edward moved to Chicago and began his working career as a Registered Pharmacist for Walgreens. In 1969, he met a neighbor of his sister, Marshal Sher, who was working at the time for Big Ben Chemicals. Marshal indicated that there was a sales opening, and urged Edward to interview for the position. Edward did interview, and began his chemical career working at Big Ben from 1969 thru 1971.

In 1971, Polen started his own chemical packaging and distribution company, E-M Company, out of his home in Highland Park, Illinois. The humble beginning in his garage was for packaging windshield wash solvent and paint thinner, and the resale of drain cleaner. Shortly thereafter, he rented space in North Chicago and started his chemical distribution business with 1 employee and 1 truck; he took orders, filled them, and drove a rented truck to deliver them.

Through the next 15 years, E-M company hired several sales people, added bulk storage tanks, more space, trucks, and most important, suppliers and sales. In 1983 Polen convinced Marshal Sher to join him at E-M Company as their sales manager. E-M continued to grow; moving up to a 120,000 sq/ft building and constructing a state-of-the-art tank farm. In 1985, Edward was required to change E-M Company's name to EMCO Chemical Distributors, Inc. In 1994, EMCO entered the waste disposal business and opened a non-hazardous waste division.

In the 2000's, EMCO's growth was phenomenal. There was continued growth in North Chicago with the purchase of a 260,000 sq/ft building next door to EMCO's existing site. In 2008, EMCO purchased a chemical blending and packaging facility in Columbia, IL; a 250,000 sq/ft building on 32 acres of land. In 2012 EMCO established a presence in Canada with EMCO Chemical Distributors Canada LTD, which grew further in 2016 with the acquisition of Inortech Chimie Inc., forming EMCO-INORTECH ULC. In 2013, EMCO's team engineered, retrofitted and built EMCO's new corporate headquarters in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. A 30-acre, 260,000 square foot, new "state-of-the-art", manufacturing and chemical distribution facility. This location includes 10 miles of stainless steel piping, 1.1 million gallons of bulk storage, a clean room built to ISO 8, Class 100,000 Standards, a warm room, three indoor truck scales, capacity for 26 rail cars, and fully staffed lab and technical services.

Since then, growth and expansion have continued. In the past several years, EMCO completed a 60,000 sq/ft addition to EMCO's distribution facility in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin; a 53,000 sq/ft addition to the Chemical Packaging facility in Columbia, Illinois; and the purchase of an additional 500,000 sq/ft warehouse building in North Chicago, IL. Today the company encompasses a full line of services providing custom packaging, industrial chemicals, specialty chemicals, fine ingredients, and waste services.

Polen has not only built one of the largest, most successful chemical distributors in North America, he also became involved in a remarkable charity. In 2003 Edward co-founded YouthBuild Lake County. YBLC is a charitable program that assists "at risk" men and women, ages 18-24, to obtain GEDs or high school diplomas; and through workplace training, helps them find employment for a variety of trades. YouthBuild Lake County has helped many men and women since its inception and continues to receive Polen's support and involvement. During the holiday season, EMCO holds a Holiday Charity Drive that supports at-risk children in the vicinity of their major facilities. Besides personal contributions, Polen matches any amount raised by his employees.

Polen is also very patriotic, and every year since the 9/11 disaster, EMCO has conducted a "9/11 Remembrance Ceremony" at all of their facilities, honoring local fire and police first responders. Ceremonies include a quite moving presentation of the colors by sky divers, and military aircraft flyovers.

Edward is a member and former regional president of the NACD, and a member of the Chicago Paint and Coatings Association, as well as the Chicago Drug and Chemical Association. Edward has been a member and active supporter of our organization since 1976 and has encouraged his employee's to be active in the CD&CA. One of his employees became President in 2009 and the active member count is the highest in the CD&CA. Edward was recently awarded the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award by the Kenosha County Chamber of Commerce and the Kenosha Area Business Alliance.

In closing, Edward Polen would be the first to say that there were many other people involved with his success in our industry, and he is very proud of the EMCO Team. But his personal direction and involvement are, and continue to be, the driving force that results in the accomplishments EMCO has achieved. He is truly a Chicago Drug and Chemical Legend.

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.cd-ca.org](http://www.cd-ca.org)



CHICAGO DRUG & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION

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- View our calendar of events
- Download membership forms
- Order CD&CA event tickets
- Catch the latest news
- Sign up for committees
- Submit Newsletter items
- Read up on CD&CA history



### Chicago Drug & Chemical LinkedIn Group

We have created a group on LinkedIn for the CD&CA. It is a great way to have discussions, share information and stay in touch, etc. To join the group, please go to:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3775030>

To join the CD&CA group, you must be a member of LinkedIn. LinkedIn is free and setting up a new account only takes a few minutes. Please join the discussion on LinkedIn.

### Welcome to Shutterfly

We have created a website called "Chicago Drug & Chemical Association" to share pictures with our members. Please check it out at

<https://CD&CA.shutterfly.com/pictures>

Shutterfly

## CHICAGO DRUG & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION

### Upcoming Events



*Cocktails and Chat*

Join us online Thursday, September 24 at 4:00 PM