

 LEADERVIEWS

Excerpted from Part 3 of our 3-Part series on How Lean Benefits Our Employees, Our Customers and Led KEP to Industry Leadership by President Bob Oborn

In parts one and two of this series, I discussed how Kent Elastomer Products (KEP) adopted Lean methodologies. Our adoption of Lean didn't come easy. There were missteps. But I was committed – and if the commitment doesn't start at the top and include everyone – Lean won't happen.

Persistence paid off. KEP became more efficient. We greatly reduced waste. Just as importantly, we changed our culture. Our employees now know they are not just encouraged, but expected to seize opportunities to improve KEP. This empowers our workers and gives them ownership in their jobs and ability to grow their careers.

Read more from KEP President Bob Oborn in [part 3](#) to find out the three important ways Lean benefits us – Available now! Or first, catch up on the [complete article series here](#).

 ABOUT US

As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and those who have helped to shape the success of KEP. It is in this spirit that we say thank you and best wishes for the holidays and New Year to all our team members and everyone we've had the pleasure of doing

business with! We hope that 2018 has been just as great for you and your loved ones as it was for KEP. We look forward to working with you for many years to come.



In addition to celebrating leadership among our team, we love sharing stories of KEP kids following in the leadership footsteps of their parents! KEP's Director of Quality Assurance, Beverly Kiglics's son, Thomas Kiglics, recently earned the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank that the Boy Scouts offer. [Read more](#) about his achievement and the honor he received from Stow Mayor James Costello and Councilman Mike Rasor.

THIS MONTH'S KEP CHALLENGE



Have a unique challenge? Put KEP to the test! We've solved a broad range of customer challenges – including many product solutions that stand the test of time.

A large medical device customer of ours was left with several challenges after buying the assets of a urinary drainage bag business that went bankrupt. The customer had all the equipment, including all the pieces-parts, but didn't know how to manufacture the product. We knew KEP could find a solution!

Our customer shipped all the equipment to us and we got to work creating a finished urinary drainage bag product. In the process, our team designed a prototype that eliminated a hazardous material used by their old supplier and we developed a water-based odor barrier coating to further improve the product. Additionally, we designed a new machine which allowed us to strip the narrow-necked urinary drainage bags from the form for greater efficiency.

After sourcing all the parts and reverse engineering the process to make it successful, we began to manufacture bags that met our customer's exacting specifications. This product has since become one of the medical device products we've consistently manufactured since 2001!

FEATURED TEAM MEMBER



As KEP's Strategic Alliance Manager, Brad Huntley comes to us with a wealth of experience that will help KEP continue to grow. Brad has a successful 35-year background in sales and sales management, which includes many honors and numerous awards. Read more about Brad in our [Leader Views Blog](#) or check out our newest feature on our Meet the Team page!

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT



If your product requires rubber-like flexibility with allergen-free properties and a broad range of chemical and corrosion resistance – PVC tubing compounds could be your perfect solution! KEP offers medical-grade formulations plus a variety of custom compounds, including gamma stable and Phthalate (DEHP) free options in custom sizes, colors, shapes and bonding styles. Once manufactured, our knowledgeable experts will work swiftly to get your PVC tubing product qualified and on the market. [Learn more about our PVC tubing and find KEP PVC Data Sheets.](#)

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NEWS



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