

## Informal Informer

by Donna DelGreggo

Hello Everyone,

It's the end of January as I am writing this, and the wind is howling outside and the rain is coming down in sheets! I am sitting at my desk listening to pieces of trees and other debris hitting the building - I'm so glad I'm safe inside! Isn't it *March* that's supposed to come 'in like a lion...?'



In honor of Mardi Gras I've included a Jambalaya recipe in this edition. I used to have a roommate who had lived in Louisiana for 10 years, and he made the best Jambalaya! I have to admit, I got this recipe off the computer, but it's the closest I could find to his. He really didn't have a recipe, he just threw together a bunch of ingredients in a roasting pan, put it in the oven and a couple of hours later... voila! I'm going to have to make a batch of this one over the weekend to see if it's as good as his!



Speaking of computers, I "tweeted" for the first time last week! PDI has a Twitter account and I went on there to post a link to our blog. To some of you out there, that might sound like a "so what?" but for me, that's an accomplishment. A few years ago, I barely knew how to send an e-mail. Now I'm not only sending e-mails (too many, some people say), but I'm updating the company website and blog; and doing this e-newsletter... and now I'm tweeting? I think I'd better call my 17-year old niece and get some pointers!



I hope you enjoy this edition... see you again in a few months!

*Donna*

P.S - Have you checked out PDI's blog yet? (See the following page for the blog address.)

## PDI Happenings

### Just In Time Foundation

Prepared by D. Gish

**The recent downturn in our economy had forced companies to lean out more cost and take a hard look at their supply inventories and stocked finished goods. These resultant efforts helped to reduce the organizations exposure and minimized carrying costs. This floating money was the capital needed to survive the economic crash. What came out of this was an economically induced Just In Time manufacturing scenario.**

**During this period it was a struggle to meet our customer's demands. Our partnerships and commitment were instrumental to our success. PDI immediately recognized the need to fully embrace the key elements of JIT.**

**I've compiled some building blocks that I consider important to the development of a successful JIT program between Customer and Supplier;**

#### Developing JIT Suppliers

It is important to develop a link between the companies so to ensure a long-term business relationship. This will provide both companies with the stability required to optimize the profit potential. There are four needs that affect the supplier's ability to perform: trust, communications, linearity of production, and time and visibility to make changes.

#### Trust

The most basic need of suppliers is to be able to trust that the customer will provide stability if the supplier meets requirements. This will allow the two organizations to work much more closely than they would based just on a contract.

#### Communications

To successfully manage the communication link between customers and suppliers can be done in two ways:

*Supplier contacts:* To overcome the complexity of the communication problem, some companies assign a buyer-quality engineer team to be the contact for each supplier. The advantage of this solution is that it provides a formal communication channel for the supplier and reduces the potential for miscommunications.

*Supplier programs:* Supplier programs keep the supplier informed on topics of mutual interest and ensure the supplier access to information that will have an effect on the supplier's production. These programs strengthen supplier relationships by opening communications and providing an understanding of one another's needs.

#### Linear Production Schedules

Linear production schedules contribute to improving the performance of manufacturing. In a JIT system, the need for the supplier to track the customer's needs closely is important. For this to occur, the supplier must reduce lead time to the minimum. This consists of isolating the bottlenecks in the operation, balancing the production system, and reducing setup-time.

#### Time and visibility to make changes

Most suppliers can respond to changes in customer demand, but they must have enough time to make the changes. The types of changes suppliers must make are purchasing materials, adding equipment, establishing work shifts, and hiring and training labor. With better schedule visibility, suppliers could react more quickly to changes in production requirements.

## Jambalaya

½ cup butter  
1 large onion, diced  
1 large bell pepper, chopped  
4 stalks celery, chopped  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste  
3 bay leaves  
3 tablespoons Creole Seasoning Blend\*  
4 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce  
2 (28 ounce) cans whole peeled tomatoes  
7 cups chicken stock  
3 cups chopped cooked ham  
3 cups cooked andouille sausage, sliced  
3 cups cooked chicken, cut into bite-size pieces  
3 cups frozen cooked shrimp  
4 cups uncooked long-grain white rice

Preheat oven to 350° F (175° C).  
Melt butter in a stock pot over medium heat. Saute next four ingredients until tender, being careful not to burn garlic. Add tomato paste, stirring constantly. Stir in bay leaves, Creole Seasoning Blend and Worcestershire sauce. Pour this mixture into a large roasting pan. Break up whole tomatoes into pieces and add to roasting pan along with their juice. Stir in chicken stock, ham, sausage, chicken, shrimp and rice. Mix together well. Cover pan tightly with foil.

Bake in preheated oven 1 ½ - 2 hours, stirring once halfway through baking time. Remove bay leaves before serving. Makes 16 servings.

\*You can use a store bought pre-mixed Creole Seasoning Blend, or for a lower salt version you can use the recipe below:

### Creole Seasoning Blend

2 tablespoons each onion powder, garlic powder, dried oregano leaves, and dried sweet basil  
1 tablespoon each dried thyme leaves, black pepper, white pepper, cayenne pepper, and celery seed  
5 tablespoons sweet paprika  
Mix all ingredients together well. Store in a tightly covered jar.

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## Plastic Design International, Inc.'s ISO System Successfully Passes 25<sup>th</sup> Surveillance Audit

Plastic Design International, Inc. recently had the 25<sup>th</sup> surveillance audit of our ISO system with NQA USA. We are pleased to announce that we have once more been recommended for continued registration to the ISO 9001:2008 standard. PDI has been continuously ISO registered since 1996 and undergoes biannual audits with NQA. By using the principles outlined in the ISO 9001:2008 Standard, PDI has been able to show continuous improvements in our Quality Management System at every surveillance audit. ISO 9001:2008 has proven itself as a valuable tool for PDI as it strives for continued excellence.

*Love is a promise, love is a souvenir, once given never forgotten, never let it disappear - John Lennon (1940 - 1980)*

### FOLLOW PDI'S BLOG!

To follow our blog just type the following web address into your address bar:

<http://plasticinjectionmoldingmanufacturer.blogspot.com/>

## PDI ANNIVERSARIES

### February

**Roger** – Business Unit Leader, ME – **4 years**

**Dom** – Controller – **8 years**

### March

**Jody** – Business Unit Member, ME – **9 years**

**Andrew** – Production Support Team Member, CT – **9 years**

### April

**Jim** – Facilities Team Member, CT – **9 years**

**Carlene** – Shipping & Transportation Team Member, CT – **17 years**

**Rosalia** – Business Unit Member, ME – **4 years**

**Rich** – Business Unit Leader, CT – **3 years**

**Noah** – Business Unit Member, ME – **8 years**

**Janna** – Business Unit Member, CT – **5 years**

## PDI's Quality Policy

To be a Leading Supplier of Custom Injection Molded Products by providing On Time Deliveries and Competitive Global Pricing through Continual Improvement and Manufacturing Innovations.

Exceeding Our Customers' Expectations ... Everytime

