JANUARY 2021 || ISSUE 1

CSG GROUP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Northern Initiatives-MMTC Continuous Solutions Group News



Reflecting on 2020

Plan - Do - Check - Adjust into 2021
by Nick Fornetti

Like so many others, the CSG headed into 2020 with a plan…

The CSG closed out 2019 by holding the 4th Quarter event at 51st State Brewing Company in Iron Mountain, MI. After a brewery tour and some lean concept training, Kristin Smith and I presented our plans for 2020. After four years, the CSG had grown and was positioned to provide more value for it's members. The plan for 2020 was to hold another series of quarterly meetings featuring a Lean Lesson and facility tour of the hosting company. The CSG Membership fees introduced in 2020 enabled us to offer our members training by industry experts, meals for event attendees and access to the "Portal" through Northern Initiatives where all videos of the training sessions are archived.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CSG Group Meetings

February 18
April 22

Virtual Trainings

Lean Champion
Lean Practitioner
Lean Office

Training starts in February.
For more information
please visit:
www.nl-the-center.mailchimpsites.com

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CONT... Reflecting on 2020

We held our first quarterly event at Lake Shore Systems in February 2020. Kurt Peterson, of Total Enterprise Consulting and Coaching delivered an Office Lean lesson complete with a hands-on exercise to practice the techniques of identifying and reducing the hidden wastes in office environments. The group also participated in an exercise on Rapid Prototyping The lunch time and post event discussion lead to the new direction we are taking in 2021. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and all face-to-face meetings were canceled.

In the lean spirit of Plan, Do, Check and Adjust with the help of Northern Initiatives, the CSG was able to respond to the crisis continue offering value, and support to members. We held bi-weekly meetings focused on weathering the impacts of the pandemic. Virtual meetings were held to discuss best practices and share resources. MI Works, The SBDC and The MEDC attended the meetings to provide information and support.

"CSG was able to respond to the crisis, continue offering value & support to members."

In May, we began a new chapter of CSG by embracing virtual meetings. The funds for the previously scheduled events were reallocated to offer 10 hours of coaching by the MMTC Traverse City Office. The quarterly meetings were replaced with monthly virtual meetings (all archived In the Portal).

2020 Virtual Meeting Topics

- Intro to 5S
- How to hold Effective Virtual Meetings
- Integrated Change Control - Project Management
- Tools for Leaders
- Industry 4.0
- Hoshin -Overview of Strategic Planning
- Trends in Interacting with Customers

CSG has partnered with the MMTC Traverse City office and the Iron Mountain Downtown Development Authority (IM DDA) for an exciting year of learning and application of Lean Concepts that will translate to any kind of business.

Join us in 2021 to build on the 2020 concepts of identifying and differentiating value and waste. Apply the lessons to help the DDA create standard work for hosting its annual events: Italian Fest, Brew Fest and Oktoberfest. Take the lessons back to your own organizations and create the stability only achieved through the concept of standardized work.

Get ready for a safe and prosperous 2021!

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About Continuous Solutions Group aka CSG

A program of Northern Initiatives-Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center

Our goal is to bring our local manufacturers together to solve problems, support economies, and become strong organizations. Join our collaboration of Upper Peninsula businesses and become part of an open network of ideas. We host a series of quarterly meetings with various topics throughout the year. Participants gain exposure to new concepts and techniques to apply to their own companies.

Not all problems are created equal. Different kinds of problems require different tools to solve them. When we determine there is a problem, how should we react, and what tools in our problem-solving toolbox should we use?

Members

Advanced Blending Solutions (ABS)
Burton Industries
CCI
Connor Sports
Eagle Mine
Extreme Tool
Great Lakes Sound and Vibration (GLSV)
Lake Shore Systems
MJ Electric
Messersmith
MI Works
Pettibone
Systems Control
Smith Castings

The CSG group has been instrumental in helping us establish lean manufacturing principles in our manufacturing shop and in our office, as well as developing a culture of continuous improvement throughout the company.
-Jeremy Mortl, Owner / President, Messersmith MFGing

Survey Impacts

by our federal sponsor NIST

Measuring the impact of our services on operational performance of our customers.

NEW SALES	**$2,550,000**
RETAINED SALES	**$300,000**
JOBS CREATED / RETAINED	**51**
COST SAVINGS	**$430,000**



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