

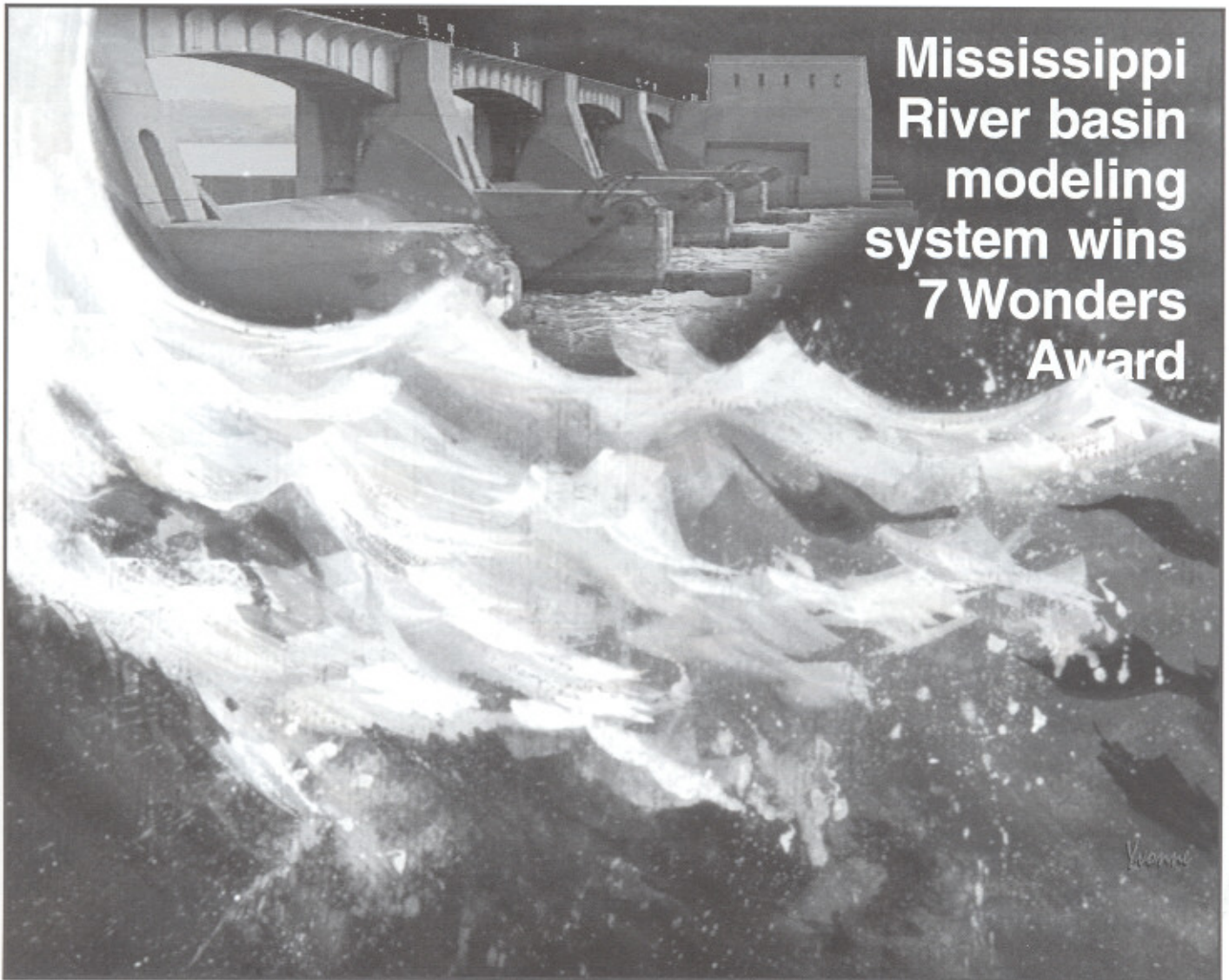


US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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February 1999



**Mississippi
River basin
modeling
system wins
7 Wonders
Award**

The Mississippi River Basin Modeling System (MBMS) won the Seven Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota Award given by the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE). The award was announced this January. The modeling system improves the Corps'

ability to predict the river's flows and flood stages. The above photo-illustration dramatizes the flow of water at a typical lock and dam on the Mississippi River. The MSPE honored the district for the model on Feb. 19 as part of National Engineers Week. More on page 3.

Photo-illustration by Karen Nagengast

Strategic Vision: Revolutionize Effectiveness**METL will CYA for those SOBs**

By Col. Kenneth Kasprisin
St. Paul District Commander

METL will CYA for those SOBs. Do I have your attention? Okay. Let me explain. These commonly used acronyms have taken on a new meaning here.

On February 1-2, the district's top management gathered for an off-site planning conference at a facility in suburban Minneapolis. The agenda ranged from our history and recent accomplishments to where we stand today and the direction we must take in the next few years to remain competitive and fulfill our strategic vision. It was an opportunity for some face time with a number of the individuals who work diligently to manage their part of our missions

each day and to know more about the progress and problems we share in the accomplishment of our overall mission. There was no shortage of problems. Which brings me to SOB, CYA and METL – tools that are available to help us stay competitive and to focus on our missions and strategic vision.

- SOB: Step Out of the Box
Translation – think creatively.

- CYA: Challenge Your Assumptions

Translation – just because we've always done something a certain way doesn't mean we'll continue the process the same way.

- METL: Mission Essential Task List

Among the many issues that surfaced in the off-site meeting were the great number of inside

and outside challenges we confront each day. Often, they seem to get in the way of completing what's really essential to fulfill our individual contributions to the overall missions of the district and the Corps. Mission essential tasking is one tool we can use to our advantage and focus on being more productive. For instance, we're aiming to link our training plans to mission essential tasks. Headquarters has given districts six mandatory functions: construction, engineering, operations, planning, project and program management, and resource management. This is the superstructure we're building upon. Step Out of the Box. Challenge Your Assumptions. Focus on essentials. METL.

I plan to elaborate on these issues and others through Town Hall meetings, brown bag lunches and columns. Stay tuned.

**Strategic Vision:
Reshape Culture****Tips for trips on ice**

By Ronald E. Scott, chief
Safety and Occupational Health
Office

Is there really such a thing as safety on ice? Every winter in the Upper Midwest, the media reports stories of cars, trucks and snowmobiles being driven out onto lake or river ice, hitting a weakened area, and sinking.

A rapid, large air temperature drop makes an ice sheet brittle, and the ice may not be safe to use for at least 24 hours or more. Even though ice may be thick in one area, currents and air bubbles in the ice

can greatly lessen the amount of weight a given area can support.

To support 200 pounds, ice must be at least two inches thick, and also have no other loading (cars,

people, ice houses, snowmobiles, etc.) within 17 feet.

Obviously the safest approach to going out on a frozen body of water is to avoid doing it completely, but if you really must venture out to ice fish, the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) has developed a fact sheet entitled "Safety on Floating Ice Sheets" which is available through your Safety Office. Additional information is available on-line at <http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/> and then selecting info@crrel.army.mil.

As you may suspect, the ice engineering aspect is more complex than what we can present here. See the Safety Office for more information.



St. Paul District video clip

Cars can become also entrapped in ice when flood waters freeze. This happened on the Red River of the North during the Flood of '97.

Strategic Vision: *Seek Growth Opportunities*

Mississippi River hydraulic modeling model wins MSPE 7 Wonders Award

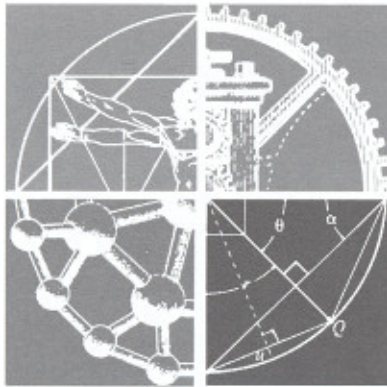
By Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs
specialist

The St. Paul District celebrated National Engineers Week this year with its sixth Seven Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota Award. The award is for the Mississippi River

Basin Modeling System. The modeling system improves the Corps' ability to predict the Mississippi River's flows and flood stages. (See "MBMS: A model of federal cooperation" at right.)

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) recognized the model developers at a banquet in Minneapolis on Feb. 19. Stu Dobberpuhl, a hydraulic engineer, developed the model in cooperation with Pat Foley, acting chief of Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch. Other members on the development team were Jodi Kormanik, Rich Pomerleau, Marv Hrdlicka, and Scott Bratten.

The MSPE annually names the Seven Wonders of Engineering. Previous winning projects have included St. Paul, Rochester, Bassett Creek (with Barr Engineering), the 1984 rehabilitation of Lock and Dam No. 1 and Upper St. Anthony Falls



**National Engineers Week®
February 21-27, 1999**

in 1964.

The MSPE has established a traveling display of the award winners. The traveling display circulates to about a dozen MSPE chapters in Minnesota.

Other banquet activities included recognition of the Young Engineer of

the Year, and presentation of scholarships from the various professional engineering organizations in Minnesota.

Engineering Division has planned and executed National Engineers Week celebrations for the district. This year Don Basham, the director of Engineering and Technical Services at Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), presented the keynote address on Feb. 23. He is also the career program manager for engineers and scientists.

In preparation for National Engineers Week, Chief of Engineering Division Bob Post participated in judging for Minnesota Consulting Engineers Council. The CEC awards banquet was held on Feb. 12.

The district also held an induction of engineers into the Order of the Engineer on Feb. 23. The Order of Engineers upholds the standards and dignity of the engineering profession and advances engineering technology.

Strategic Vision:

Enhance Capabilities

MBMS: A model of federal cooperation

The Mississippi Basin Model System (MBMS), one of the "Seven Wonders of Engineering" in Minnesota for 1999, glimmers as a model for interagency cooperation.

Hydraulic Engineer Stu Dobberpuhl, working with others, developed the model which is used by Water Control for operation of the Mississippi River dams. The model results are also provided to the National Weather Service (NWS) for use in developing their official river stage forecast. The NWS uses the combined modeling product in its river forecasting.

"This is a great example of using the expertise of both agencies to maximize the benefits to the public," said Pat Foley, acting chief of Hydraulics and Hydrology.

"As you'd expect, Stu did a super job on the technical challenges of the model," said Foley. "However, one other thing that really impressed me was how well he's worked with the National Weather Service. His work has brought us closer together on shared goals."

"The MBMS model uses the National Weather Service hydrologic forecasts for all the inflows and then uses the UNET model for routing the flows and predicting stages," said Dobberpuhl. The UNET is a component of the MBMS. "The UNET module actually does the water level computations," said Dobberpuhl. The district's internet site has more information at <http://www.mvp-wc.usace.army.mil/mbms/mspe/index.html>

Strategic Vision: *Satisfy the Customer*

EMP benefits more than 10,000 acres of habitat



The first in a yearlong series highlighting Upper Mississippi River habitat projects

By Don Powell and Gary Palesh
Project Management Branch

In 13 years since Congress authorized the Environmental Management Program (EMP), the St. Paul District has completed 19 habitat projects that have brought environmental benefits to more than 10,000 acres of habitat on the Upper Mississippi River. The construction cost for these completed projects totals more than \$20 million.

Most district projects have been designed to reduce backwater sedimentation, improve conditions for the growth of aquatic plants and improve water quality.

Habitat projects are the most significant component of the EMP for the district.

River resource management agencies nominate projects for the habitat program based on agency management objectives and river habitat needs. These



St. Paul District file photo

The above is an aerial view of Lansing Big Lake project in Pool 9 on the Mississippi River north of Lansing, Iowa. Big Island is at the top right.

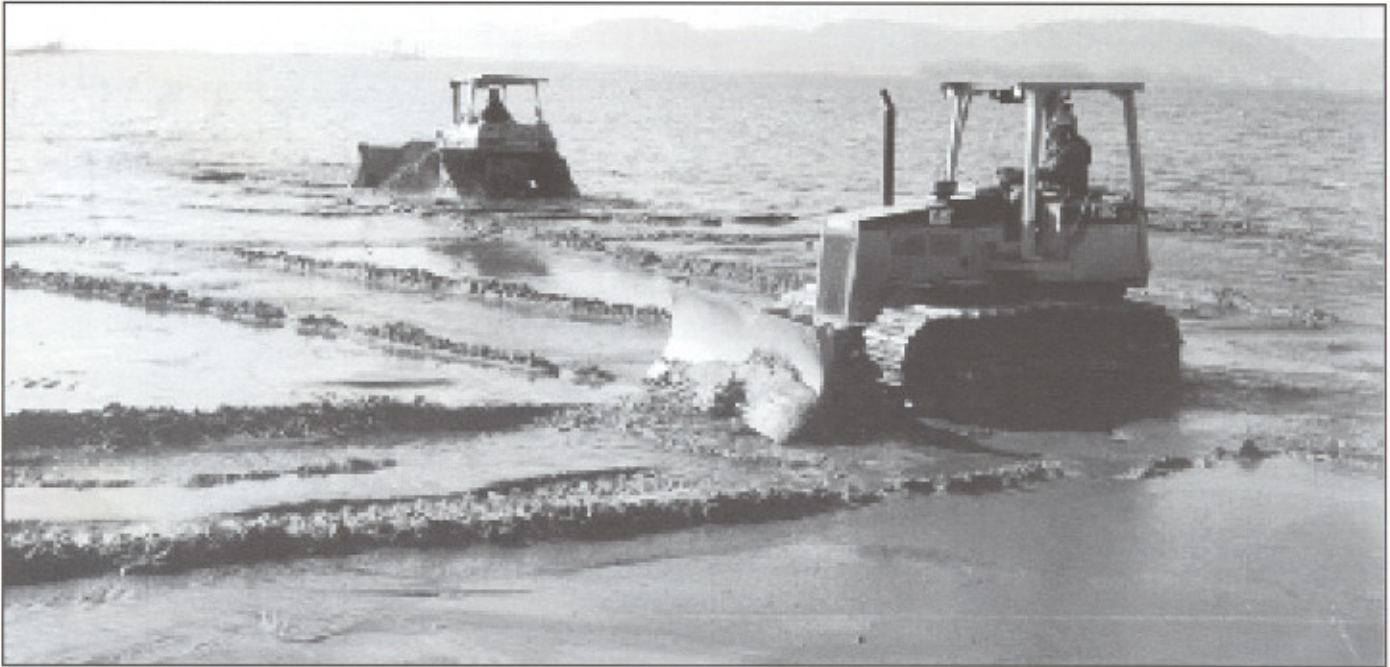
agency partners are state natural resource agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Fish and Wildlife Work

The EMP studies and projects are located along 1,300 miles of the Upper Mississippi River system. The system extends through three Corps districts and includes commercially navigable portions of the Mississippi River north of Cairo and the Illinois River. St. Paul District projects are located along the Minnesota River and Mississippi River from Guttenberg, Iowa to Minneapolis, Minn.

Group, part of the River Resources Forum, assists the district in selecting projects. Members of the work group include field-level biologists who manage river resources. They weigh resource needs and deficiencies on a pool-by-pool basis. The work group establishes priorities based on a biological ranking. The result is a priority list of habitat projects that meets the EMP mission for the Upper Mississippi River. The district uses this list to develop its program.

The work group continues to rank new project proposals and update priorities. The objective is to prepare prospective projects for upcoming budget cycles.



St. Paul District file photo

The photo above shows island construction on the Mississippi River near Stoddard, Wis. The construction is part of the Pool 8 Islands Phase II project.

WRDA 1986 authorized EMP

The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 is the law that authorized the Upper Mississippi River system Environmental Management Program (EMP). The EMP is the only system-wide program on the Upper Mississippi River that targets habitat rehabilitation and resource monitoring. The intent of the program is to protect and to balance the resources of the river and to guide river management. The current authorization of the EMP will expire after fiscal year 2002. Congress is now considering proposals to reauthorize and improve the program.

Trempealeau, Pool 8 Islands part of fiscal year 1999 program

Projects scheduled for completion in fiscal year 1999 are the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge project, the Pool 8 Islands Phase II project, and the Mississippi River Bank Stabilization Stage 3 project in Pool 6.

New contract awards and construction starts for this year include the Long Lake project and the Polander Lake Stage 2 project. The cost for these two projects is about \$1.5 million. Polander Lake Stage 2 is being combined with an operation and maintenance project to unload the Wild's Bend dredged material containment site. Four projects in the planning phase are Ambrough Slough, Harpers Slough, Pool Slough and Spring Lake Islands.

Upcoming articles on EMP

- Rice Lake
- Trempealeau
- HREP planning team and the planning process
- Spring Lake Peninsula
- Habitat needs assessment
- Bank stabilization on the Upper Mississippi River
- Long Lake
- Finger Lakes
- Polander Lake Stage 2
- Cold Springs
- Pool 9 Island

Jan Janos puts lock and dam duties into 'arm lock'

By Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Jan Janos paused on a ladder that leads down 70 feet to the lock operating machinery at Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. He works on lock maintenance during the winter while the lock is closed to river traffic.



File photo

Jan Janos at Lock and Dam 18 in 1974.

Jan Janos, the brother of former professional wrestler and current Minnesota Governor Jim Janos, a/k/a Jesse Ventura, likes the action at Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam (USAF) on the Mississippi River.

"I like the job," he said. "It's good steady employment and next to downtown Minneapolis. The best part is working outside in the summer time. The worst part is being outside in the winter in the windchill."

"On weekends in the summer we have a lot of recreational boat traffic and barges. I like locking boats through. Sometimes, boaters get in trouble at the falls or people fall in the river. I like being here to assist public safety officials with emergencies."

The Minneapolis native returned home to work at USAF in 1975. He moved up-river from Lock and Dam No. 18 near Burlington, Iowa, where he worked from 1972 to 1975.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I left the Navy," said Janos. Upon discharge in 1972, he returned to work for a brief time at Sears in Minneapolis. A cousin who worked for the Rock Island District alerted him to a job opportunity at the lock near Burlington. "At the time, the lockmaster at 18 was in charge of divers." Janos was hired and applied his experience as a former Navy SEAL diver. After additional Corps training, he became part of the Corps diving team. "We dove at Locks and Dams 24 and 26."

The Janos brothers share a fitness ethic, but part company when it comes to political involvement.

Their common bond in high

school swimming and sports opened the door to the Navy SEAL program. "High school swimming helped me a lot," said Janos, who at age 50 maintains a rigorous fitness schedule at a local athletic club.

"The fifth week of SEAL training, Hell Week, was mentally the hardest," he said. "All the running. All the swimming. Spending the day in mud three to four feet deep. The rock portage in the heavy ocean surf. Being shivering cold and wet in the harbor in December."

Janos leaned back in his chair, lifting its two front legs off the floor. "This is," he paused to gather his words, "still hard to talk about." He rocked forward and put his elbows and arms onto the table in front of him. He picked up a number 2 pencil and began tapping the table top with the eraser as he spoke. Other lock operators stood silently in the background.

"This gets real emotional," he said. "We started with 119." Only 22, including brothers Jim and Jan, completed the rigorous course.

Between 1977 and 1984, while Jesse Ventura traveled the pro wrestling circuit, Jan ran in "12 to 13 marathons. My best time was two hours, 50 minutes, 11 seconds."

Politicians were not held in high esteem by their father, a Minneapolis city worker. "When we were growing up, he used to tell us about those dirty, stinkin' politicians," said Janos. "I'm political in my own way. In my case, I stayed out of the election (of Jesse Ventura)," said Janos. "I followed it. I called him up to congratulate him. But the night of the election, I was at work."

**Strategic Vision:
Reshape Culture**

District provides web link for women-owned small businesses

By Molly Howe
Student in Public Affairs

On Jan. 20 the St. Paul District initiated a link on its web site for the Department of Defense's Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB)



Program. The objective is to increase the amount of

money awarded to businesses owned by women.

The web site offers details on how women-owned businesses can compete for contracts offered by the district.

The focus of the WOSB program is to increase awareness of contracting opportunities for women-owned small businesses with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to put money back into the community.

"My office works full-time to facilitate the small business connection to district contracting opportunities," said Patricia Johnson, deputy for the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization program (SADBU). "The amount of money awarded to women was only 1.4 percent of the \$20 million that was available to all small businesses last year through the St. Paul District. We want to increase the amount of money ... to businesses owned by women."

The internet address is <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/organization/smbusiness/smbusiness.html>.

**Strategic Vision:
Enhance Capabilities**

Reserve district campsites on the internet or toll-free

By the Public Affairs staff

Beginning March 1 the public will be able to reserve campsites and other recreation facilities operated by the St. Paul District by dialing the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) toll-free at 1-877-444-6777 or on the internet a <http://reserveusa.com/>.

"The St. Paul District has 19 recreation sites in four states," said Frank Star, an outdoor recreation



**Reserve
Your Place
Under the
Stars**
National
Recreation
Reservation
Service

planner in Construction-Operations Division. The states are Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Said Star, "Eleven of our locations feature campgrounds, with a total of 670 campsites, and our recreation team members are tops in the business. We're gearing up to make sure our interaction with the national program is seamless. The district has some of the best locations anywhere in the nation and we think the NRRS is going to help share that feeling with thousands of Americans."

Additional information is on the district's home page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/rec/recreation.html>.

**From lock and dam to lock and load:
Brantner's favorite past-time**



Photo by Lisa Lund

Connie Brantner, the administrative clerk at Lock and Dam No. 4 in Alma, Wis., heads out with her family and friends each year for the nine-day gun deer season in Wisconsin. She used her 20-gauge shotgun to bag this buck in Pepin County on Nov. 22, 1998.

Strategic Vision: *Reshape Culture*

Bonnie Greenleaf named first Consideration of Others award recipient



Photo by Jon Lyman

St. Paul District Commander Col. Kenneth Kasprisin presented the new Consideration of Others Award to Bonnie Greenleaf at the staff meeting on Jan. 19. Award recipients will be announced each month.

By Michelle Schneider
Engineering Division

Congratulations to Bonnie Greenleaf, Engineering Division, for being the January 1999 Consideration of Others Award Recipient! She not only did a great job of helping a young engineer learn the ropes, but she went beyond her job duties and showed consideration for her by acting as her mentor. Bonnie's actions exemplify the principles of treating others with dignity and respect.

Look for the plaques recognizing the monthly winners going up soon in the fifth floor elevator lobby and at the Mississippi River Project Office. Each month the EEO office will accept nominations for the Consideration of Others Award. Nominations not selected will be held for consideration for up to an additional three months. Additional nomination forms are available in the EEO kiosks just inside the North door from the elevator lobby.

Criteria for submitting nominations are work-related meritorious personal efforts, acts, or services in going the extra mile to help a coworker in a way that demonstrates treating others with dignity and respect. Standards to consider in making this determination are honesty, integrity, consideration, compassion, sensitivity, civility, and courtesy.



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St. Paul District

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