Australia's IMG helps meet rail target for intermodal shipments

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Watco’s jointly owned Intermodal Group (IMG) recently helped hit a rail target of 20% containers on rail at Western Australia’s Fremantle Port. Congestion is becoming an issue in the city due to large truck numbers moving in and out of the Port. To counteract this problem, the State Government introduced a subsidy for rail freight that moves through the Fremantle Port Authority’s (state government owned) North Quay Rail Terminal.

IMG’s focus on moving containers by rail resulted in achieving the State Government’s 20% target in 2018-2019. This is an increase from around 11 percent in 2009-2010 or, according to government calculations, the equivalent to removing 110,000 one-way truck trip movements. Moving this traffic to rail not only eases the congestion and improves road safety, it also reduces wear and tear on the city roads.

IMG operates two terminals served by our Watco WA Rail Team. The Forrestfield Intermodal Terminal (FIT) and the North Quay Rail Terminal (NQRT) at Fremantle’s Inner Harbour. The NQRT achieved a record-breaking month, processing more than 14,300 containers for both import and export in July. This is the highest volume recorded by IMG since it commenced operations at NQRT in 2007. Container volumes at FIT were also at record levels in July, with more than 10,000 containers contributed to the short-haul rail shuttle service.

“Attracting more container volumes onto rail is a key focus for IMG and will only be achieved with the continued support of our Customers and key stakeholders,” said Grant Thompson, IMG Chair and Watco Australia CEO. “As the current operator of NQRT and associated FIT, we are proud to work with our Customers to be an active contributor in attracting more freight on rail and reducing truck traffic on roads around Fremantle Port.”

Approximately 80 percent of the volumes currently received at NQRT are transported by IMG’s rail service from FIT. IMG is the exclusive operator of NQRT and has introduced efficiencies during the past 12 months that have resulted in regular triple daily return services between FIT and NQRT. The majority of the services have been export containers due to a strong grain season, but the team has focused on increasing the import containers as well, making full trips both in and out of the Port.

Thompson said: “We have worked closely with our Customers to achieve record growth in container numbers through NQRT over the past 12 months. These outstanding volumes are the result of the current State Government’s support to encourage more freight on rail through the container port rail subsidy, strong demand for WA agricultural exports and initiatives implemented by IMG to attract and retain Customers on the port rail service.”

CBH Group was Watco’s first Customer in Australia and they are a part of the successes IMG has experienced at the Port. FIT sits right next to a CBH’s Metro Grain Center and the team not only moves export grain containers, they also assist in packing the containers for CBH.

In addition, the recently announced IMG partnership with Qube Logistics has started to produce results, with container volumes beginning to transfer from road to rail. IMG is confident this partnership will result in more import and export container volumes moving on rail, which will underpin the growth required to achieve the State Government’s ultimate rail target of 30%.

IMG provides services seven days a week and has the ability to provide services around-the-clock if needed. Currently, there is not a consistent need, but IMG is flexible and willing to operate as Customer need demands. Right now, there are 20 IMG team members at NQRT, 47 IMG team members providing service at FIT.

“The excellent service provided by these team members and helping achieve the State Government’s 20% port rail freight target, has positioned IMG extremely well to continuing as the preferred operator at NQRT for another term,” said Thompson.
Savannah & Old Fort Railroad excited to serve Georgia Customers

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

On August 30, Watco’s first short line in the state of Georgia began delivering cars to Customers along the Savannah River.

The Savannah & Old Fort Railroad (SVHO) is a 6.45-mile long line that connects with the CSX at Southover Yard, which lies south of the river. The railroad was given the name as a nod to Old Fort James Jackson, which lies one mile east of Savannah. Old Fort Jackson was constructed between 1808 and 1812 to protect Savannah from attack by the sea. It was one of three Confederate forts that protected Savannah during the civil war until the Union army captured the city by land.

The railroad delivers a variety of commodities to terminal operators along the river. Although there are eight Customers on the line, there are 29 different Customers who our Customers deliver to.

"I've had some of the Customers reach out to me and commend our team on how they have communicated with the Customers on the line and reached out to teach them the various tools that are available to aid the Customers in setting up shipments, and ordering and tracking cars," said Rob Thrall, VP of business development. "They've been very appreciative of how proactive they are in getting things set up and ready for them to use on day one."

A ten-year agreement was signed with CSX to operate the line with growth obligations built into the length of the contract.

Because of its connectivity to the river accessing the Atlantic Ocean, the commodities that are shipped on the line have an impact internationally, one example of this is the line’s top Customer, Georgia Biomass. They bring in wood pellets that are shipped to Germany and are used in the operations of a power plant.

Other large Customers on the line include Southern States Chemicals and Argos.

Thrall said, "In addition to the current Customers, we're already in talks on some other big projects and are focused on growing the business, both with new and our current Customers."

There were approximately 15,470 cars shipped on the line but Thrall feels that with our experienced team, there are opportunities to grow that number.

Terence Snell is serving as the general manager of the railroad. He joined the Watco Team nine years ago and was a conductor with the Vicksburg Southern, a trainmaster for the Baton Rouge Southern Railroad and the general manager of the Bogalusa Bayou Railroad. He is excited to be back in Savannah, where he is from originally.

Other team members include Jeffrey Infinger, conductor/engineer; Paul Mitchell, conductor; Jasper Nail, roadmaster; Christopher Odom, conductor; Donald Robert, CMO; Eric Smith, conductor/engineer, Montel Stanley, conductor/engineer, and Daryl Rogers, conductor/engineer. Another team member, Jared Costello, conductor/engineer, will be joining the team in a couple of weeks.

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Two Watco locations were all about giving back during back to school. The Pittsburg (KS) and Overland Park (KS) Teams participated in separate events to provide underprivileged kids with school supplies. The Pittsburg Team donated enough supplies to fill 20 backpacks and helped the community “stuff the bus” full of backpacks.

The Overland Park office donated more than 40 backpacks filled with supplies to the FOX 4 Love Fund’s Back to School Bash.

Thanks to both teams, many school kids will be able to have what they need to start their school year off right.

Left photo: Pittsburg Team Member Cassie Bicknell helps stuff the bus with donated supplies. Right photo: Carter Kallenbach, son of Overland Park Team Member Cori Kallenbach, helps pick out supplies to donate to the Fox 4 Love’s Fund Back to School Bash.
Alabama Warrior receives President's Award for safety
by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

The Alabama Warrior Railroad (ABWR) was recently notified that they were recipients of American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association's President's Award. The ABWR Team won for having the best safety rate in the category of less than 50,000 man-hours worked. The award will be presented at the ASLRRA Southern Regional Meeting November 12 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

ASLRRA’s President’s Award is presented annually and recognizes railroads that have achieved either a 0.0 accident frequency rate, or the best safety rate below the industry average as measured by the lowest accident frequency rate per man-hour of operation during the previous year. The ABWR received a Jake with Distinction, for their injury-free 2017. “It’s all because the team made a decision to come to work each day and be safe. They committed themselves to coming to work and not putting themselves in position to injure themselves or anybody else,” Anthony Hoyte, general manager, said. “They bought into it and we haven’t had any issues with RPIs (Reportable Personal Injuries) since.”

The railroad has 21 team members and primarily handles coal on the 24-mile long line.

Team members at the ABWR are:

- Allen Gearhart
- Johnny Johnson
- Anthony Hoyte Jr
- Joshua Garrett
- Archie Fields III
- Justin Mead
- Brian Butler
- Marty McClendon
- Christopher McKinney
- Matthew Garrett
- Curtis Rice
- Michael Lewis
- Daren Jolla
- Nakia Jenkins
- Dean Schexnayder
- Olen Reid
- Emmitt Carter
- Quinchez Marshall
- Jace Fisher
- Torrance Hendrix
- Jermaine Woods

Six Watco railroads added to safety award recipient list
by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) announced the winners of the 2018 Jake Awards and Jake with Distinction last month, recognizing regional and short line railroads' safety efforts.

Initially, 19 Watco short lines earned a Jake Award with Distinction, which recognizes above-industry average safety performance during the previous year. The ABWR received a Jake with Distinction, for their injury-free 2017. “It’s all because the team made a decision to come to work each day and be safe. They committed themselves to coming to work and not putting themselves in position to injure themselves or anybody else,” Anthony Hoyte, general manager, said. “They bought into it and we haven’t had any issues with RPIs (Reportable Personal Injuries) since.”

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- Jermaine Woods

Mission Mountain Railroad celebrates three years injury free
by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

The Mission Mountain Railroad Team celebrated their three-year safety anniversary with a big splash. Mid-August, the team joined together for a rafting trip down the Northfork River at Glacier National Park.

The team met at the depot in the morning and then drove down to the river, aired the rafts up and off they floated. The water wasn’t moving extremely fast, so they were able to enjoy a relaxing trip on the water.

Team member Pam Ridenour followed the group in her car and took pictures and then transported the group back to their cars at the end of the trip. “The team has done a good job focusing on safety and it was fun to get together outside of work and celebrate their accomplishments,” said Kyle Jeschke, MMT general manager. “I hope we can come back next year to celebrate four years.”

Know someone looking for a new career? send them to watcocompanies.com/careers
100 MILLION BARRELS OF BAKKEN OIL SHIPPED BY RAIL

Hess Corporation recently announced that they hit two major milestones: total production of more than 250 million barrels of oil equivalent in the Bakken, and 100 million barrels moved by rail.

In 2011, Hess built the Tioga Rail Terminal (TRT) and products are moved east, west and south by train and then down to Texas and Louisiana by pipeline. Hess Midstream operates the system of pipelines and rail transportation.

The Watco Team is responsible for loading unit trains of NGL’s and crude oil. The terminal runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and there are 59 team members at the location. In addition to the team members loading the trains, Watco is also responsible for providing on-site security at the site.

With all the activity, the team is proud of their safety record, and they haven’t had an RPI since 2012.

Steve Sheldon, Commercial Manager, said one interesting facet is the relationship between the two companies.

"Hess subscribes to the Lean Kaizen philosophy. Which is a methodology that eliminates waste and boosts efficiency," said Sheldon. "As a contractor, the Watco Team follows that same principle, and it has lead them to be able to find solutions together; there's that mutual respect there."

Hess CEO John Hess said things aren't going to slow down either. He said production is expected to grow approximately 20 percent per year to 200,000 of oil equivalent per day by 2021.

To date, approximately 1,400 unit trains or about 145,000 railcars have moved through the Tioga Rail Terminal since start-up, and Hess said they only see the operation continuing to grow.

Kim Boles, director of Bakken operations, said, "The Hess operation in the Bakken is a success story, pure and simple."

Ann Arbor TS&IC provides water for emergency

by Jay Benedict
Digital Communication and Social Media Specialist

As an algae bloom threatened water supplies, Toledo, Ohio’s largest mission asked for donations to support their emergency relief supplies, and the Ann Arbor Team stepped up.

Led by the TS&IC Team, they gathered resources, purchased, and delivered a pallet of bottled water to the Cherry Street Mission.

"It’s a great feeling when our team can come together and support the same community that we work in," said Ian Gray, Ann Arbor conductor/engineer and TS&IC leader.

Wellness requirements waived

by Brenda Antle
Benefits Specialist

Once again, the Benefits Team has chosen to waive all wellness requirements for the 2020 benefit year.

What does this mean for you?

Team members will not have to complete a wellness exam in 2019 for 2020 to receive the incentive. Spouses coverage will also not need to meet the wellness requirement.

All team members on the HRA plan will receive their HRA dollars day one (previously the first $500 in deductible had to be met before receiving funds).

All team members on the H.S.A. plan will receive the full Watco contribution in their H.S.A. account (previously funds were not provided if wellness was not met).

However, Watco still strongly recommends all team members still have a wellness exam completed. Your health is always changing, routine blood work, and yearly physicals can help lower your risk of future health issues when caught early.

Please Note: Tobacco compliance will still be a requirement for 2020. In order to pay lower premiums, all tobacco users will need to begin the Tobacco Cessation Program by November 30, 2019. To enroll in the program, please contact Quit-4-Life at (866)-784-8454.

All team members will still need to log onto www.watcohealth.com to select Yes or No regarding tobacco use. If the option Yes is selected, the team member will also have the option to confirm enrollment in the Tobacco Cessation Program.

For any questions or concerns, please email benefits@watcocompanies.com.
**Northwest gangs celebrate four-year safety anniversary**

Rain or shine, the Northwest Track and Tie Gang 168 and the Surfacing and Lining Gang 167, know how to perform their jobs safely. They recently hit a four-year injury-free milestone. These gangs have traveled the northwest railroads completing various capital and maintenance projects, all in a safe manner. The gangs have performed work on the Boise Valley Railroad, Eastern Idaho Railroad, Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad, Great Northwest Railroad, the Mission Mountain Railroad, and the Pacific Sun Railroad. That's a span of more than 1,421 miles.

Supervisor Ben May said, "I'm very proud of this team and their accomplishments. They've done a great job focusing on safety in all kinds of conditions."

The team members that are on these gangs include: Ben May, supervisor; Jose Martinez, track machine operator; Francis Benally, track machine operator; Boyd Standley, foreman; Trevor Todd, track machine operator; Dee Burwell, surfacing foreman; Latt Hyde, surfacing machine operator; Mark Mazur, track machine operator; Jose Trevino, track machine operator.

Congratulations on safely taking care of the infrastructure that our team operates on!

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**Federal Grant to rehabilitate rail will help Eastern Washington Farmers**

A $5.7 million federal grant will help rehabilitate rail infrastructure used by farmers in Eastern Washington.

Watco's Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad (PCC) will benefit from this grant. The PV Hooper branch on the PCC is a portion of the line that the funding will be used to upgrade. The line between Hooper, Washington, and Endicott, Washington, will be upgraded to help the PCC provide service to the new Northwest Grain Growers unit to help the PCC provide service to the Endicott, Washington, will be upgraded line between Hooper, Washington, and Endicott, Washington, will be upgraded to help the PCC provide service to the new Northwest Grain Growers unit. Grain loading facility at Endicott.

Ted Kadau, VP of Commercial, said, "We're basically trying to make up for that lack of infrastructure investment over the past few decades and get caught back up."

"If you slow the trains down enough, you can get across almost everything, but you lose a lot of the efficiency," Katovich said. "We're basically trying to make up for that lack of infrastructure investment over the past few decades and get caught back up."

Grain growers in Eastern Washington state will benefit from the rehabilitation of rail line along the Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad.

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**Operation Lifesaver training classes offered**

Watco and CDL Electric Company, Inc. recently hosted Operation Lifesaver Inc. (OLI) training in Pittsburg, Kansas. Nine team members became Kansas Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers. They're now ready to work toward OLI's goal to reduce injuries and fatalities resulting from trespassing and grade crossings incidents through community education.

While it used to be common to visit schools and create awareness of rail safety, there has been a lack of authorized volunteers to cover all the schools. Now with additional representatives in the area, the message of rail safety can be presented not only to schools but local organizations and others who will benefit from the presentation.

Crystal Arnold, director - digital asset management, said she can see many instances where the class can be useful beyond the traditional school setting.

Arnold said, "In working with GIS mapping systems and helping first responders in rail-related incidents, I can see this as being a very useful tool. We can let first responders know how to not only access rail property using the mapping, but then we can provide the education so that they know how to be safe around the railroads as they are working."

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**TS&IC training held in Burley**

Four team members recently attended TC&IC Training held in Burley, Idaho. The two-day class covered methods the team could use to lead their coworkers in creating the safest work environment while providing more communication, and interaction with the communities we operate in.

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Why Watco - Team member thrives on keeping others safe
by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

A saying said many times throughout the workday at Watco is that we want our people to go home in the same condition they came to work in. But EHS Manager Shannan Penrod wants more than that.

“I want our team members to go home in better condition than when they came,” said Penrod. “I want them to have learned something that they can take home with them, to make them better people.”

Penrod, who supports the Scottsville, Texas, and Zwolle, Louisiana, mechanical shops, has been with Watco for five years. She came into the industry after working as a paramedic for 13 years. What triggered her career change was responding to too many calls involving victims of industrial accidents.

Penrod said, “I’ve always been interested in helping people, which is why I became a first responder. After seeing so many work-related accidents, I started thinking about what I could do to help people before they ended up in an accident. People shouldn’t have to trade blood for money, and working in unsafe conditions shouldn’t just be part of the job.”

Nineteen years ago, Penrod made the move and began her pursuit of a career in safety. She received her bachelor’s degree and has also taken safety specific courses to further her knowledge of the industry.

“I don’t want to see injuries happen and I don’t want to see someone have to take workman’s comp. When someone ends up in that situation, they’re going to take a cut in pay, and it will most often affect their families and their lifestyles,” said Penrod.

As the EHS Manager, Penrod works what are called blitzes. They go into a site and audit it. They look at the weak areas and target the areas where they need help.

“We don’t just go in and see what they aren’t doing, we stay with them as a team until we find out how to get it corrected safety-wise,” said Penrod. “It’s one of my favorite things to do, just because I like helping people and feel like I’m leaving them in a better, safer situation.”

Penrod primarily covers the tank side, but she is looking forward to learning more about the freight side so that she can help Vice President of Occupational Safety and Health Jeff Baum, with whatever he needs her to do.

She said she’s worked with a few companies since going into the safety field but one thing she feels is that, unlike a lot of companies, Watco has truly cared about the team members and doesn’t want them to get hurt to just to make a living.

Penrod said, “That’s why I’ve stayed. We were never called employees. We have a team member number, team member benefits. I feel like I’m not a number or just a person; I am part of a whole.

From my experience, I’ve felt they always valued their people when it came to safety, that it was not just given lip service, but they backed what they said.”

Penrod is excited to say that the Scottsville shop is celebrating 3 ½ years of safety by taking ownership of safety at the location and looking out for each other. The Zwolle shop is turning around their record and taking responsibility for looking out for each other. There is an average of about 80 team members at both locations, and one issue that occurs in the area is the battle with the oil industry for workers. When prices go up, and they’re paying higher wages the younger folks will chase the money and then when the prices go down; they came back. Luckily, she said there are still several folks who were there when they opened the doors back in the ’70’s.

Before joining the Watco Mechanical Team, Penrod had been working in Houston in the construction industry.

“The rail industry was a huge challenge, there was a lot to learn, and I love it,” said Penrod. “It was time to come back home and be around my daughter and sons. This is home, I have 15 years left, and I hope this is where I finish up. This really is family.”

Port of Vicksburg Team Member celebrates 45 years

The Port of Vicksburg Team had something big to celebrate on August 19; it was the number of years that fellow team member, Willie McRunnels, has worked at the facility. McRunnels has been at the location for 45 years.

Terminal Manager Kevin Neihaus said, “Willie’s hard work over the years has made him an incredibly valuable asset to the Port.”

McRunnels is an equipment operator at the facility.

Wedding

Kelly Jo Soucy - Todd Trammell

Kelly Jo Soucy and Todd Trammell were united in marriage on August 30, 2019.

The couple were married at the Lea County Courthouse in Lovington, New Mexico. They celebrated with friends and family at their home following the ceremony.

Kelly is employed at Hobbs Family Dental Care and Todd is the general manager for the Texas & New Mexico Railway, the Lubbock & Western Railway, and the Pecos Valley Southern Railway.
Congratulations to the following Team Members celebrating anniversaries this month

1 YEAR: Donovan Allen, Brendan Bilderback, Kody Blair, Travis Blair, Joseph Blanford, Carlton Boxley, Jessie Brown, Kenneth Burns, Phillip Burrous, James Carter, Kerry Childs, Craig Daley, Christopher Dalton, Timothy Demery, Derrick DeWitt, Jimmy Esobar, Richard Flowers, Clark Fritton, Tabarius Garnier, Christina Gonzales, Jose Gonzalez, Joe Grady, Kevin Griego, Lensi Gutierrez, Larry Hair, Carter Hanson, Jarell Harris, Kenneth Heaton, Brandon Hecker, Joey Heimburger, Cory Horng, Nicholas Hughes, Travis Hutchinson, Alexander Kater, Michael Kolec, Ryan Laverdue, Tyler Lyzenga, Joshua Mathis, Michael May, Martin Mayes, John McCrossen, James Merritt, Nicholas Mora, John Moschella, Vincent Oliver, April Potter, Cassandra Ramirez, Orlando Reeron, Miguel Rodriguez, James Rogers, Sarah Romero, Mary Saenz, Bennie Seere, Richard Serrano, Chad Settles, Zakary Smalling, Benjamin Smith, Henry Smith, Brian Sparks, Kevin Terry, James Theodore, Nicholas Tipton, Darrell Tolbert, Trevor Turtle, Eric Vail, Anthony Waldschmidt, Brandon Warnick, Quincy Wells, Turkson West, Brandon White, Michael White, Loretha Williams, Brian Womble, Bryan Wooldard


3 YEARS: Delmer Armientrou, Jeremy Bouler, Ryan Dimick, Macy Freeze, Matthew Garrett, Allen Garrett, Travis Grosse, Kourtney Hatch, Earl Musick, Darin Price, Brandon Salee, Nick Schwartz, Aaron Snow, Trusty Whiddon, Johnny Williams, Liang Yan

4 YEARS: Zakky Briggs, Richard Burchfield, Zachary Eaton, Matthew Haviland, Clinton Johnson, Drury Kane, Chad Klopfenstine, Jeremy Knight, Jeremy Lemarr, Daniel Martin, J. Homero Medina, Raul Medina Ramirez, Daniel Mendoza, John Moriconi, John Morrison, Kevin O'Rourke, Harry Pellegrine Jr., Danny Queen, Thomas Rochelle, Jonathan Roquet, Robert Ross, Travis Schnelle, Michael Schoenherr, Angela Segat, Austin Slinkard, Jerry Theriault, Manuel Torres-Miramontes, Maddie VanBecelaere, Juan Vasquez, Jordan Wells, Carina Wiles, Marcus Zambrano, Owen Zidar, Kelly Zulfer


6 YEARS: Ignacio Alatorre, Jacob Cahill, David Callan, Jesus Carmona, Allen Chamberlin, Jennifer Crossno, Michael DeHoyos, Jace Fisher, Joy Lavoie, Arden Martinie, Christopher Porter, Brett Travis, Michael Urmes

7 YEARS: Christopher Burns, Leslie Dodd, Billy Edwards, Charles Foster, Laramie Gahman, David Giertych, Daniel Gorseth, Christopher Hughes, Joe Irving, Donald Kopsie, Don Latimer, Leonidas Mejia Escobar, James Mobley, Craig Rasmussen, Gilberto Rivera, Daniel Rodriguez, Floyd Schrock, Clint Woods, Rito Zertuche

8 YEARS: Robbie Aucoin, Mark Cendejas, Justin DeWitt, Ernie Farrand, Fred Hinson, Justin Hoggle, Linda Jordan, Albert Merritt, Steven Sheldon, Adam Weddle

9 YEARS: Dawna Baker, Benjamin Beers, Laurie Caler, Damien Cantrell, Cedric Graham, Steven Johnson, David Mathews, David Miller, Andrew Moots, JaCorey Murray, Bradley Shows, Benjamin Tarran, Peter Tietjen, Sam Wolfe

10 YEARS: Lewis Barlow, Curtis Joyce, Michael Reeves, Chadd Thimesch, Cody Winkelman

11 YEARS: Daniel Archer, Robin Combs, Kevin Griffin, Michael Hanks, Kevin Kennison, Joseph Lunsford, Michael Stitzel, Lori Vaden

12 YEARS: Bryan Bernal, Dale Cross, Sergio Delgado, Timothy Dykes, Donald Moss, Jamie Wilson

13 YEARS: Nancy Dickey, James Hagans, Thomas Laugavitz, Megan McDaniel, Bill Miller, Wesley Murray, John Weitzel

14 YEARS: Aubrey Berguin, Christopher Boatman, Jonas Colley, Matthew Davis, Anneta Garcia, Matthew Hare, Mark Harrington, Kari Stephens, Reynaldo Vargas, Thomas Williams, Steve Yates, Carol Young

15 YEARS: William Balzen, Charles Clay, Brandon Craddock, Stacy Grant, Joseph Nazimek, Julio Parada

17 YEARS: Arnufo Rangel, Eric Wayne, Michael Wilson

18 YEARS: Chuck King, William Patterson, Gary Rosenow

19 YEARS: Ramon Castro, James Yon

20 YEARS: Kara Bowman

21 YEARS: Donald Browder, Eric Davison, Lawrence Swenson

22 YEARS: Jackie Brady, Richard Gruber, Nathan Trejo

23 YEARS: Kenneth Fletcher, Larry Smith, Jesus Victoria

24 YEARS: Brad Hayes, Michael Moore

25 YEARS: James Smith

26 YEARS: Danny Sepulvedo

28 YEARS: David Tarwater

29 YEARS: Pete Wilczewski

31 YEARS: Gary McKern

32 YEARS: Timmie Benson, Eric Davis

38 YEARS: Randy Alcorn

39 YEARS: Alfred Anderson, Fred Porter

40 YEARS: Robbie Meshell

41 YEARS: Ray Lee, Cas Love, Rickey Moore, Robert Watson

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**BIRTHS**

**Kamrynn Nevaeh Moore**

Michael and Sydney Moore are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Kamrynn Nevaeh. Kamrynn was born on August 4, 2019. She weighed 5lbs., 5oz., and was 19 inches long. Kamrynn was welcomed home by her big brother Kashen Moore, 11 months.

Michael is a conductor for the Stillwater Central Railroad.

**Russell James Maston**

Daphne Geary and Aaron Maston are proud to announce the birth of a son, Russell James Maston.

Russell was born July 31, 2019. He weighed 8 lbs., 11 ounces. 20 inches.

Big sister Elizabeth Cowett was happy to welcome him home!

Daphne is a member of the Peabody Switching Team in Wyoming.
Two Watco locomotives rolled out of the factor in mid-August, but oddly, they weren't pulling any trains, they were on one.

The eight six-axle 42 inch-gauge locomotives were fitted with new NRE trucks and equipped with an EMD 12-645E3B diesel engine.

The locomotives will be traveling a longer distance than most; they are on their way to Queensland Australia for service in the GrainCorp fleet.

Earlier this year, Watco announced it would expand its Australian operations after signing a seven-year contract with grain marketer and handler GrainCorp for haulage on the narrow gauge network in the state of Queensland beginning in late 2019.

Watco President and CFO Rick Baden spoke on a speaker panel hosted by Leadership Kansas on August 22 titled "Planes, Trains and Automobiles."

Baden explained to the group how taking care of Customers and solving their logistics and supply chain problems is what drives everything Watco does and the places it expands its business into.

He explained that the locations that Watco has expanded the business in is driven by Customer need.

"We don’t say, you know, going forward that we have a strategic plan that we’re going to end up in Western Australia or we’re going to end up on the East Coast somewhere," Baden said. "That happens because our Customers take us there."

Baden also went on to describe that although the company has numerous short line railroads, that the terminal and port space Watco operates in has grown in recent years.

With three short lines railroads, three mechanical shops and one terminal operating in the state, Watco has played a part in driving the Kansas economy, not only as an employer of Kansas workers but also as a shipper in helping get commodities delivered to market for Kansas businesses.

Other speakers on the panel were Bob Brock, director of aviation with the Kansas Department of Transportation and Kansas Turnpike Authority CEO Steve Hewitt.

Leadership Kansas, an affiliate program of the Kansas Chamber, is designed to enhance and motivate future leaders from various Kansas communities. Several Watco Team Members have benefited from participating in the program.