McWANE ERGO CUP

AMEREX WINS INAUGURAL McWANE ERGO CUP COMPETITION!

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. But there's nothing wrong with stirring some incentive into the process—right?

Employee teams at ten McWane facilities entered the very first McWane Ergo Cup competition this year. Sponsored by McWane CEO and President Ruffner Page, the Ergo Cup competition challenges teams to find and address the most pressing ergonomic concerns in the workplace.

This isn't about developing ways for us to better fit into our workplaces, but finding better ways to shape our workplaces around us—that's the study of ergonomics. The best solutions make it easier to do our jobs effectively and with less stress (think: adjustable chairs, scissor lifts to elevate baskets of parts and automated conveyor lines).

Each team found great examples to make our workplaces more responsive and effective. But only one team could win the Cup and advance to the national competition—and that winner was Amerex for their project designed to reduce the risk of ergonomic stressors to employees in the Dry Paint Department. Congratulations to the team for their innovative work!

The McWane Ergo Cup was fashioned after the National Ergonomics Cup Competition, held annually in conjunction with the Applied Ergonomics Conference. Thousands of attendees gather from around the world to share the latest advancements in ergonomics, healthcare, safety, human resources and risk management.



Amerex team members from left to right: Stephani Riley, Doug Markstrom, Mark Lewis, Billy Davis (seated), Michael Graham (seated), Charlie Burke, Will Yarbrough and Robert Fisher

The McWane Ergo Cup projects were entered in three categories:

1) Team-driven workplace solutions where the problem solving effort is led by team members from production and maintenance.
2) Engineering/Ergonomist-Driven Workplace Solutions led primarily by facility engineers.
3) Ergonomic Program Improvement Initiatives designed to improve the effectiveness of a facility's overall comprehensive ergonomics program.

The criteria for winning the McWane Ergo Cup are:

- Innovation – where the entry represented newly created devices or processes for workplace solutions.
- Simplicity – where the solution was simple and straight-forward.
- Cost Savings – where the solution provided a measurable return on investment.
- Ergonomic Risk – where the solution significantly reduced or eliminated ergonomic risk.
- Presentation Quality – where the problem, solution, and impact were clearly translated and demonstrated to an audience.

To help the teams analyze, measure, and document the improvements made with their solutions, the company invested in eTools® software. Team members participated in nine hours of training to learn how to measure ergonomic risks and document their findings with the software, which not only assisted them with their Ergo Cup entries, but also prepared them to assist facility ergonomic teams and engineers long into the future.

This year's judging panel included Jason Robinson, Director of the Alabama Chapter of the National Safety Council; Dr. Timothy Key, Occupational Health Physician, University of Alabama; Stephen Jenkins, Certified Professional Ergonomist, Auburn Engineers; and Pat Tyson, Occupational Safety & Health Attorney with Constangy, Brooks & Smith in Atlanta, Georgia.

In all, 71 team members from ten facilities participated to develop innovative solutions to potential concerns in their work environment.

AB&I Foundry – *DISA 270 Work Station Redesign*

Amerex – *Dry Paint Hanger Redesign*

Clow Canada – *Improving Cast Iron Pipe Restrainer Handling*

Clow Water Systems – *24-36" Diameter Core Handling*

Clow Valve Metal Casting Facility – *Sand Muller Gearbox Lifting and Positioning Fixture*

Clow Valve Metal Casting Facility – *Cutting Large Stem Castings from Gating @ Robot Cut-Off Saw*

Clow Valve Machine Shop – *Hydrant Machining Robot Cell Development*

Kennedy Valve – *Gate Valve Assembly Cell Layout*

M&H Valve/Union Foundry – *Automated System for Casting Distribution*

M&H Valve – *Improve Seal Plate Process*

Manchester Tank-Quincy – *Utilizing Risk Maps to Direct Safety Team Efforts*

Pacific States – *Redesign of Cement Line Operator Control Platform*

Amerex, winner of the 2010 McWane Ergo Cup, won't be McWane's first entry at the national competition. In February 2009, a team from Clow Valve entered and won with their first entry in the nationals, beating teams from General Electric, Johnson & Johnson and Boeing! Hopefully another McWane team will win the 2011 competition. But even if Amerex does not come home with the big trophy, we know they did an outstanding job—as did all participants in the McWane Ergo Cup. They are all due honorable recognition for identifying a workplace concern and developing effective solutions. Any time we identify a better, safer way to do our jobs, we all win!

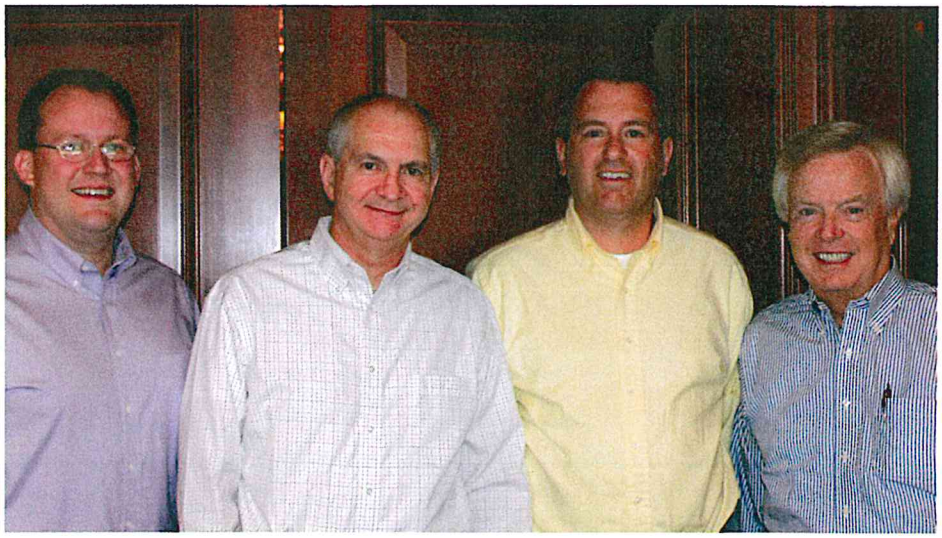
Congratulations to all the teams who participated in the 2010 McWane Ergo Cup! Every team member for the first place winner will get $1,000 each as well as going on to the International Ergo Cup Competition. The second place winning team will get $500 each and the third place winning team will get $250 each. We can't wait to see the entries for 2011! ■

WINNING ENTRIES FOR THE 2010 McWANE ERGO CUP:

FIRST PLACE • AMEREX

SECOND PLACE • CLOW WATER

THIRD PLACE • M&H VALVE



2010 McWane Ergo Cup judges from left to right: Jason Robinson, Timothy Key, Stephen Jenkins and Pat Tyson