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BACKGROUND ON TODAY'S CARDINAL FASTENER SPEAKERS

John W. Grabner
President
Cardinal Fastener & Specialty Company, Inc.

John W. Grabner founded Cardinal Fastener in 1983. In its 26 years, Cardinal is the largest U.S. manufacturer of hot forged bolts and the primary supplier of bolts and fasteners to the North American wind turbine industry.

Cardinal Fastener has experienced two growth spurts in its history, with the third occurring right now. The first spurt lasted 15 years, with the second commencing in 1998 when the company began its Lean Thinking journey, also known as the Toyota Production System. Through John's leadership, Lean Thinking has allowed Cardinal to increase efficiencies, decrease costs and provide extremely fast service to its customers.

Following his graduation from Emory University, John joined Arthur Young & Company and earned his CPA certificate. After a number of years spent auditing various operations, John discovered his passion for manufacturing and decided to purchase Cardinal Fastener.

John currently serves as Division Chairman at the Industrial Fastener Institute. He is a past president of the North Coast Fastener Association and the National Fastener Distributors Association. He has also participated on the board of United Cerebral Palsy.

During the past several years, John has become a frequent speaker and part-time consultant on the subject of Lean Thinking. He has focused primarily on companies as they begin their Lean Thinking journey. He has also spoken about the need for companies to become more environmentally responsible and the importance of renewable resources in the future.

"Smokey" Brandon L. Delafosse
Production Supervisor
Cardinal Fastener & Specialty Company, Inc.

"Smokey" Brandon L. Delafosse has worked at Cardinal Fastener for nearly 14 years. As Production Supervisor, he is responsible for on-time performance as well as production and staff scheduling in the company's 85,000 square foot manufacturing facility. Previously, he served in the U.S. Air Force for 9 years where he was a Non-Destructive Inspection Technician, and is a veteran of Desert Storm.

Delafosse, 44, lives in Bedford, Ohio, and is a proud father of two teenage children. Born in Chicago, he grew up in Gary, Indiana, and is a graduate of Lew Wallace High School in Gary, Indiana. He has lived in Cleveland since the mid 1990's.