



Members of the 777 line have formed a band in a morale-boosting music effort to connect with team building. Band members include (clockwise, from far left) Maureen Howard, Rey Moralez, Bill Bowman, Rebecca Arnold, Roger Todd, Rodger Noble, Dan Sayson, Dan Coleman, Anthony Magno and Dean Johnson.

GAILE HANUSA PHOTO

Hitting a high note

777 line members ‘band’ together in effort to boost team morale

By SCOTT LEFEBER

When morale teams began forming to promote team engagement in the Everett, Wash., factory, Dan Coleman had an idea he couldn’t resist. Coleman, a 777 wing line mechanic, began developing a band room in the 777 factory area. His objective was to connect music with team building and ultimately boost morale.

“Music has always been a part of my life,” Coleman said. “It’s a great way to escape from the pressures and stress of daily life, and connect with people.”

After 777 management approved Coleman’s idea, the band room took off. Coleman’s morale team, which consists of 777 mechanics and support personnel, started buying equipment with funds contributed by employees, decorating the room and

spreading the word to fellow employees.

“I brought in one amplifier and cranked it up, and people started coming out of the woodwork,” Coleman said with a smile.

Now the band room is just part of the normal workday for many 777 wing line employees.

“I love coming to the band room on my lunch breaks,” said Maureen Howard, a second-shift 777 wing mechanic. “This program gets people together that may have never said ‘hi’ to each other.”

The 777 wing morale team was developed more than two years ago with the intent of bringing a more energetic and engaging atmosphere into the factory. The team consists of first- and second-shift mechanics and support personnel that work in the 777 factory.

“The employees have really taken the band room to the next level,” said Darin Hein, 777 wing line manager. “It’s been a definite morale boost for anyone interested in playing music.”

777 management encouraged employees to create programs that would truly engage their teams. Team members said the entire

morale program has been a great success. It’s created new relationships and been a great team-building activity, members said.

“Performing with co-workers in the band room or on the factory floor is very similar,” said Bill Bowman, a 777 team leader and 26-year Boeing employee. “I’ve gained from coming to the room. I always leave with less stress and a better attitude.”

The room has grown into a popular lunch-time attraction. The music connection blends into the work environment, team members said.

“Our team communication has improved because of our music bond,” said Rebecca Arnold, an office administrator. “It’s been a great team-building experience because it requires everyone to rely on each other to perform in synch.”

Performing music requires many of the same work-related actions, such as concentration, responsibility and dependability. When 777 team members perform in the band room, their connection as teammates extends beyond the factory floor and into personal relationships.

“Music is the language of all nations,” said Coleman. “We’re all here together doing the best job we can, so we might as well have fun doing it.” Added Arnold: “I never imagined doing something like this at work. It has really opened up relationships and brought our team closer together.” ■

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