

# De Keyser Construction Proud Local 139ers

By Neil Strobel



Over the years, many small companies have remained viable in this industry because of the long hours and years of sacrifices made by previous generations of their families.

De Keyser Construction Company is among that group. August of 2018 marked the 50th year anniversary that De Keyser Construction Company Inc. has been in business here in Green Bay. Dan De Keyser has been a member of the IUOE 139 for the past 49 years and his son Kurt De Keyser has been a IUOE 139 member for the past 19 years.

In a recent interview, Dan told me that there are many reasons De Keyser Construction is proud to be a member of the IUOE 139. He went on to state that the union has always provided great benefits to its members not only in the form of quality insurance and a well-funded pension plan, but also in the ongoing training at the Coloma Training Center and the availability of immediate assistance provided by the business agents whenever they have needed it.

It was clear from my conversation with Dan and Kurt that they attribute their business success to several core principles. They said that although there have been many changes in the construction industry over the years, De Keyser's commitment to quality customer service coupled with their effort to communicate with their employees, contractors and project owners throughout the entire project has remained constant. De Keyser Construction has expanded its scope of work to include sewer and water projects, public and private excavating projects and emergency service repairs for both commercial and industrial facilities.

De Keyser Construction moved to its current 11,000 square foot facility in 2016. They employ 6 operating engineers, 3 laborers and 2 administrative staff members. Dan and Kurt are proud of their low employee turnover rate and attribute that to several reasons; "We look for a good work ethic and solid personal character, both of those probably come from a strong family upbringing." "If we hire the right person, we can train them to be a great employee". Kurt said, "Many of employees started as pipe layers and as a result of their apprentice training at Coloma and the field experience with our crews, they have become SAFE and EFFICIENT equipment operators.



(L-R) Dan De Keyser and Kurt De Keyser.

This has been a very good year for us again and looking back it is hard to imagine that 50 years have passed since De Keyser Construction started. We are grateful for our fortunes and look forward to continued successes in the years to come.

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