

## **HARWICK STANDARD**

It was a remodel six years in the making. Harwick Standard Distributing hadn't remodeled their offices since 1985, 35 years ago. In 2014, Harwick's President, Ernie Pouttu, formed a committee and areas that needed attention were identified. However, business priorities shifted, and the remodel plans were put on hold until 2019.

Harwick was founded in 1932 by Curtis Harwick. He sold carbon black to smaller companies in the Akron area and before he knew it, a new business was born. After moderate success, in 1948 the headquarters moved to a larger building on South Seiberling Street in Akron where it resides today. Harwick continues to grow and thrive under the watchful eye of its current steward. As a leading distributor in the polymer industry, they serve North America and other places around the world.

In late 2019, Metis was awarded the Harwick bid, and Metis architect Paul Romanic and Pouttu got to work collaborating to create the updated, open, airy remodel he envisioned. The substantial project included 33 offices, three large common areas, the board room, employee lunchroom area, conference room, mailroom and three restrooms all needed updated. We can't forget about the creation of two new kitchens.

The six-month project included replacing floor tiles and carpets, installation of new ceiling tiles, updating restrooms and fresh paint throughout. Two new modern kitchens were built each with stainless appliances and a beautiful modern backsplash of blues. From the working color palette of grays and blues, employees selected a paint color for an accent wall in their office. The remodel took 1980's interior and transported it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The results were amazing!

Ernie stated, "The renovation has created a better work environment for our employees. They are really enjoying the new spaces." He continued, "We were sad to see the Metis team leave, especially John Kishton, Doss Heyen and Jordan Saran. They became part of the Harwick family while here. Everyone at Metis went above and beyond to make this renovation a reality and we truly appreciate it."