

# INSIDE

AN INSIDE LOOK AT BLUE STAR POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

# 20

**BLUE ST★R**  
Power Systems Inc.

# Company Perspective

Hello and welcome to our 16th edition of INSIDE. We are so pleased to continue to bring you a small look inside what's new at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. As we prepare to turn 20 on August 2nd of this year, it has given me a moment of pause. As a character from a pretty great movie once said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." Certainly looking back on the last 20 years, I agree wholeheartedly with that statement.

It's hard to believe it's been almost 20 years since this company started in my garage. I am so grateful to so many of the amazing team members, distributors, suppliers, and unexpected people who have become a part of our journey and will continue to have such impactful roles as we move forward. While we have come a long way from that garage, the passion and drive it took to get from there to where we are now is still very much a part of this company. Those intangibles that make up our company are the very same intangibles that will help us grow and thrive for the next 20 years.

One of those intangibles is quality, and so appropriately, our Employee Spotlight introduces you to our Kim Sward, our quality control lead. Kim embodies the passion for excellence our company holds so important. Thank you, Kim, for all you do for Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. Our Elite Distributor introduces you to our first distributor partner, Shannon Vandersyde, and his company, Midwest Ag Electric. Thank you, Shannon, for believing in us early in our history and your continued partnership for all these years.

It continues to be an exciting time to be part of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. Thank you again for putting your trust and your business in the care of our company.

Have a wonderful summer.



Doug Fahrforth  
Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.



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# Employee Spotlight

Kim Sward  
Quality Control Lead



Kim Sward

Kim Sward joined Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. in 2015 as a production assembler. Today, Kim is one of our quality control leads who is responsible for final inspection of our generators before they are bagged and leave the building. Kim's incredible attention to detail, his passion for excellence, and keeping our brand's reputation for quality a priority give him all the characteristics that make him great at his job and someone who is so important to our company.

Q: Tell us about your experience at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.

A: I started at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. nine years ago. The company was fairly small then, which allowed me to learn the duties and responsibilities of many different parts of the final assembly team. Those responsibilities and learning experiences have given me the knowledge to be better at my current position, which is final inspection. I really enjoy working for and with the people at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. The work environment is great.

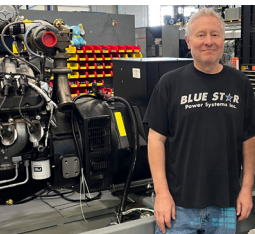
Q: What has been the most challenging part of your job?

A: Making sure that every unit meets and exceeds the customers' expectations. Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. has built a reputation for high quality and dependability. It is my job to try and make sure the units are up to that standard. This is very important to me, and I take that responsibility to the company and our customers very seriously.

Q: Tell us something interesting about yourself.

A: Friends are very important to me. In my free time I enjoy doing a variety of activities with my friends. In nice weather, I enjoy just hanging out, grilling, or sitting around a fire filled with great conversation and laughter. I am also an avid Minnesota Vikings Fan.

# Celebrating 20 Years in Business



Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. 15+ year team members. From left: Doug Fahrforth, Derek Chayer, Rob Stencel, Kyle Gauker, Russ Peterson, Amy Petersen, Kyle Perrino, Karrie Maas, Scott Johnson, Angie Coonrod, Jim Kirtz, and Bruce Prange. These individuals have played a vital role in the success of our company and we can't thank them enough for their loyalty, hard work, and countless contributions. We are so proud to have lived this amazing journey with this incredible group of people.

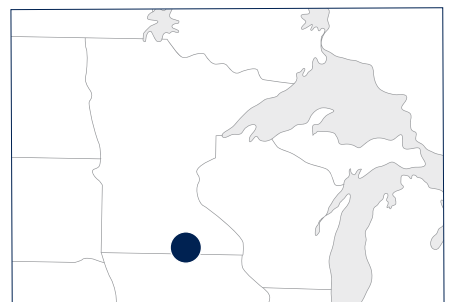
Pictured left is Paul Glaeseman, a 16-year team member who sadly passed away in 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer. Paul was one of the most instrumental and important team members in the history of our company.

## Elite Distributor

Midwest Ag Electric was founded in 2011 by Shannon Vandersyde. Located in Albert Lea, Minnesota, they specialize in the construction of turn-key livestock facilities for swine, poultry, and dairy operations.

Our relationship with Shannon started long before he founded Midwest Ag. In 2006, Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. started its first distributor partnership with Jensen Electric, who Shannon was general manager of. In now what is a great story in Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. history, Doug Fahrforth was walking the Steele County Fair, and wandered into the Jensen Electric booth. As they both discussed the benefits of Jensen Electric selling the Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. product while both leaning on a competing brand's unit, our first distribution partnership was born. When Shannon went out on his own in 2011, Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. stayed aligned with him, and what began with a few 60 & 100 kWe units has turned into many 500-600 kWe units every year.

"Given this is our 20-year Anniversary INSIDE issue, I can't think of a more appropriate Elite Distributor winner than the person I formed our first distributor partnership with, Congratulations to Shannon and his company, Midwest Ag Electric," said Doug Fahrforth. Shannon Vandersyde added, "On behalf of Midwest Ag Electric, I am proud to win this award. I'm proud to have established the first distributor partnership with Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. and look forward to many more years of growing our relationship."



Albert Lea, Minnesota

# I N S I D E

Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.