



An Inside Look at Chicago White Metal Casting, Inc.

Summer
2022

inside **cwm**



Jim Reitenbach has seen it all at CWM

Jim Reitenbach grew up in Chicago, mainly on the city's northwest side. He has two brothers, Dave and John, who he is close with and sees often. Working at Chicago White Metal was Jim's second or third job out of High School – and he's never looked back.

When asked how he found CWM, Jim said, "I took machine shop in High School (Prosser Vocational School) and other shop classes as well. My first job was at Everede Tool. I met a guy there who ended up working here. So a little bit later, I decided I wanted to do more 'tool and die' work – and that's why I came here."

Jim was hired as a Die Repairman in 1982 and worked his way up to become Production Manager by 1992. Because he started at CWM at such a unique time, Jim has seen a ton of development and change in his time here – especially regarding technology.

When CWM hired Jim, things were very different. There were no computers or tablets. Instead, die casters had process set-up information that was handwritten and usually found in the die casters toolbox. Today, that information is stored electronically and categorized by date and machine number. There also wasn't email (or the internet, for that matter).

"When I started, we communicated by delivering a physical message to someone's 'IN BASKET.' No computers existed," Jim said. "Can you even imagine that today? We would literally 'CC' someone by walking around and putting the message in their 'IN BASKET' as well."

Even the die casting process was different – core pins for the dies he was working on were turned on a lathe and hand-polished to size – it involved a lot of judgment calls. Jim was named Tool Room Manager in 1990, and he continued to see the struggle that occurred whenever we got a new job – until technology eventually caught up.

"When we got new jobs, it was very rare that we could put a die in and start running, and it would be good to go," Jim said. "We would have to take the die out and make significant changes to the gating and venting. It was crazy the number of changes we would have to make to get a part right."

Tooling was often modified by hand based solely on judgment. Jim says that the steps CWM has taken to stay at the forefront of the die casting industry by incorporating new technologies is a big reason for the company's success. For example, the Magmasoft mold flow simulation software CWM uses today eliminates much of the judgment portion of the die casting process, making everyone's job easier.

One of Jim's most memorable accomplishments at CWM was being part of the team to determine whether a new furnace was worth the investment. Bill Baraglia led the team, and in 2014, CWM purchased and installed a new Striko Stackmelter Aluminum Furnace. CWM's previous reverberatory-type furnace would receive hot metal deliveries, but it couldn't keep up with production demands. Because the new furnace is a high-efficiency one, it has saved CWM a lot of money and helped to reduce our Carbon Footprint.

When asked what he likes most about working at CWM – and what's kept him here all these years – Jim had a simple answer: "It's just a good working atmosphere. It's clean. We're always complimented on how clean it is here. When you visit other die casters, you wonder how someone could work like that. So from that aspect, whether it's employee health or safe working conditions, CWM is world-class."

In fact, Jim recently assisted with a surprise audit from the EPA. The team from the EPA was given a walkthrough and a rundown of what CWM is doing to stay current on the latest environmental standards. Jim said that one of the auditors mentioned, "Compared to the last place we were auditing, your place looks like a hospital." CWM should take pride in that.

Jim makes it clear that everything accomplished at CWM is because of a joint effort. He was part of the teams that helped CWM receive our ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications (the first North American Die Caster to receive ISO 14001 certification) – but he wants no credit for that because he was just "part of the team."

Jim's motto follows his "team effort" mindset: "lead by example." His advice to younger CWM'ers is also simple: "You have to be out there with the people; I think they respect that." That seems to have worked for Jim.

Bill Baraglia, CWM's Chief Operating Officer, took Jim under his wing over the years, and that's something for which Jim is very grateful. Bill likes to joke with Jim – to this day – asking him whether or not he's "getting the hang of this yet." After 40 years in the die casting industry, Jim is comfortable saying, "I think I'm finally getting the hang of this!"



Margo's #TBT Animal Corner



In 2012, a lost cockatoo was found in the CWM parking lot!

We all know Margo Higgins (CWM's Buyer & Purchasing/Engineering Administrative Assistant) loves animals — but who knew she had so many run-ins with wildlife while at her desk! Check out her Throwback Wild Animal Pictures!



Margo snapped a picture of a deer that decided it wanted a quick tour of CWM in 2012!



Margo fearlessly wrangled a small snake that made its way into the CWM facility in 2016



In 2019, Margo spotted a family of geese up on the CWM roof!



A familiar face around the R&D area, Margo grabbed a picture of this woodchuck in 2017.

CWM Bragging Rights

CWM team members had a lot to brag about over the summer! Check out some of their stories here!



Angela Favata (CWM's Accounting Associate) and her husband Anthony celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in September. Congratulations!



Eric Treiber, CWM CEO, had a bountiful harvest this summer at his home garden! His family grew the following types of tomatoes: Pear Pomodoro, Celebrity, Danube, Sugar Drop, Sam Marzano, and Green Tiger. They also grew Shishito and Poblano peppers.



Luke's parents, Colleen (left) and Scott Rohrbacher (right) pose with Dr. Anderson at her graduation.

Andrea Anderson, older sister of Luke Rohrbacher (CWM's Traffic and Materials Manager), earned a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Chemistry from the University of California at Irvine this summer.

Her dissertation topic was Neonicotinoid Pesticides and Wildfire Attainment on the Ozone. It took her six years after her undergrad, and she is the first in the family to be a doctor!

Congratulations from the CWM family, Dr. Anderson!



Luke stops for a quick picture at dinner with his sister.

CWM's Fútbol Clubs



CWM is proud to support two fútbol clubs. This indoor team, led by Gilmar Lopez and founded by fellow DC Operators, just started this year. They play hard and have fun, and they are very grateful to CWM for supporting them by sponsoring the team!



This team, led by Francisco Acosta, is named the Tayahua. Their squad includes CWM's own Oscar Vallejo, along with friends and family of teammates. This year, they qualified for the playoffs but lost in the quarterfinals 2-1 against the Aztecas. Nevertheless, they had a great season and a lot of fun!



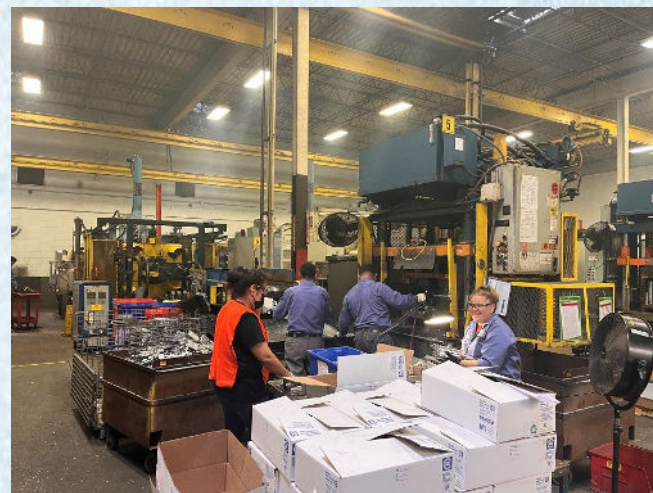
7 Reasons to Keep Die Casting Projects in the USA

In years past, companies moved their manufacturing overseas or purchased components from offshore sources for what they thought was a cost savings. In doing so, they missed out on the many benefits of collaborating with a U.S.-based component manufacturer. As a result, reshoring is becoming increasingly beneficial for U.S.-based companies, especially considering the logistical nightmares that can occur with an offshore-based supply chain.

Here are seven reasons to keep your die casting (or any manufacturing) project in the USA:

1. Supply Chain Disruptions

When the pandemic hit, many manufactured goods from low-cost regions – like China – could not make it to the United States on time because of supply chain disruptions. Factories were shuttered, people were quarantined, logistics companies were overwhelmed, ports were blocked, ships could not be loaded or unloaded, etc.



Meanwhile, U.S. companies like Chicago White Metal – who were considered "essential" – continued to produce and ship products to our customers.

2. Reduced Cost

American companies that purchase American-made components avoid tariffs and benefit from lower freight costs. Sea and air freight costs have increased significantly over the last few years. Mitigating offshore costs and supply chain risk usually involves some combination of carrying extra inventory or paying exorbitant prices to expedite shipments from an offshore manufacturer to meet increased demand. And, keeping large inventories of parts can be costly in terms of paying for storage space and labor.

3. Shorter Lead Times

Purchasing U.S.-made components reduces the time needed to get products into customer's hands because it avoids the long and often unpredictable time involved with ocean freight. Sea freight delivery that might typically take several weeks can now sometimes take months. Choosing to partner with a U.S. supplier can also speed up the component design time because it eliminates the language and time zone barriers involved with getting your product designed offshore.

4. Environmentally Friendly and Community Focused

By purchasing from an American company, such as Chicago White Metal Casting, the focus remains local. Local companies have a stake in local environmental concerns and adhere to sound environmental practices and sustainability.

U.S. manufacturers follow U.S. labor rules, employ safe manufacturing processes, are in compliance with federal, state, and local air & water standards, meet all RoHS, Reach, EPA, and OSHA directives, and are often certified to ISO and other standards.



CWM takes pride in being a "Made in the USA" company, and we are even more proud of our environmentally focused approach. We are ISO14001:2015 certified, and the EPA has praised us for our environmental practices.

5. Increased Control When Issues Arise

It can be challenging to work with an overseas manufacturer when a problem arises. Time zone, language barriers, and containment can all prevent a quick resolution. Whereas when components are sourced domestically, U.S. companies maintain more control over resolution, product containment, and final product quality.

6. Improved Customer Service

When purchasing from CWM, you'll have our experienced customer service team in our Bensenville, IL office ready to assist. Time zone and language barriers are eliminated. Our strong engineering and technical services team are well equipped to help you design products that are efficient to produce, and can save cost compared to an offshore sourced component that did not receive the same rigorous Design for Manufacturing (DFM) analysis that CWM provides.

7. American Jobs

While it might sound cliché, companies are investing in America when they choose to work with a U.S.-based manufacturer. Selecting U.S.-based partners creates jobs for your company and the web of companies you work with – it's jobs creating jobs. Collaborating with a U.S.-based source helps stimulate the local and national economy. It also allows U.S. companies to retain the know-how and capacity to make the products we need while safeguarding intellectual property.

Learn More

Chicago White Metal is a family-owned and operated company that has been manufacturing die castings since 1937. Supporting American manufacturers supports us all. To learn more about Chicago White Metal, visit our website today!



Jim Reitenbach outside of CWM

While the aluminum furnace installation was important to CWM in 2014, it wasn't the best thing to happen to Jim that year – far from it. In 2014, he married Miriam Reitenbach, CWM's Packer Team Lead. The two met at work, and they have two kids.

When Jim isn't at work, he enjoys spending time with his family and working on various home projects. You may remember from previous newsletters that Jim built a small cabin on a lake and completely gutted/remodeled a bathroom in his home – but he does so much more than that.



Jim is also quite the craftsman, amongst other things (electrician, plumber, HVAC expert, etc.). He built a beautiful wooden box for the flag that was presented to his daughter after her fiancé, who was in the service, passed away. Jim wasn't sure if he could do it, but he knew how much it meant to his daughter, and he was proud that he could contribute in that way.

"I'm working on another bathroom right now," Jim said. "I think the kitchen and bathroom that I remodeled both turned out really nice. I think those were some of my best accomplishments."

Here are pictures of the projects mentioned above:



Wooden flag case Jim made in early 2022.



Jim's kitchen remodel from 2021.



Bathroom remodel that Jim also completed in 2021.

CWM In the News



CWM was recently highlighted for our finishing capabilities in the August 2022 edition of Finishing & Coating Magazine. The article featured an interview with CWM's Manager of Product Finishing Tom Mrock, and was centered around the best practices for finishing die castings and how CWM works with various sources to get a part finished the right way. You can view a digital version of the magazine online using the QR Code above!



More CWM Bragging Rights



Libia Rincon is a CNC Team Leader at CWM. She's proud to announce that her daughter Marien was named student of the month in September for all her efforts and great work as a student! Marien is always willing to help her other classmates and stands out for being the assistant of her teacher. Marien is only 12 years old and participates in a private soccer school, where she plays various positions. This year, she will start as a Cheer Leader at school to continue expanding her knowledge and skills in this sport. Libia is very grateful to Chicago White Metal for allowing her to be part of this great company that helps her to continue supporting Marien in all her projects through her work.



Arielle (left) and her friend Zainab (right).

Judy Rhodes' (CWM's Manager of Accounting and HR services) daughter Arielle, volunteered at an annual "Walk for Adoption" event in Arlington Heights. The event allows anyone touched by adoption — adopted kids, their families, and friends — to take pride in and embrace adoption as a wonderful way to create families and social networks.

Adopted from China as a baby, Arielle had participated in the walk in prior years. However, this year, she wanted to give back through volunteerism.

While a one-mile walk was the main event, the "Walk for Adoption" itinerary also included crafts and games for adopted children. Arielle and a good friend volunteered at the children's craft tent, helping kids decorate visors and picture frames. The event's mood was festive, and adoptees and their loved ones had a great time.

Catching up with CWM Scholarship Recipients

Update: Cindy Nasser's kids Zayna and Yezzen Nasser

Cindy Nasser's daughter Zanya is attending Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, IL. She is a sophomore majoring in Communicative Disorders and plans to get her Master's in Audiology as well. Her son Yezzen is a Senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he majors in Environmental Sustainability with a minor in business. Cindy hopes they find a good job that makes them happy after graduating!



Cindy's son Yezzen (left) and her daughter Zanya (right).

Update: Jon Miller's daughters Maureen and Autumn Miller

Jon Miller's daughter Maureen is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina. She is majoring in sociology with a minor in Spanish. Post-graduation, she hopes to work at a job in medical research ethics. Autumn Miller, a senior at Saint Ambrose University, is studying to become a special education teacher — a truly admirable career choice!



Jon's daughter's Maureen (left) and Autumn (right).

Update: Rajiv Patel's daughter Priyanka Patel

Rajiv Patel's daughter Priyanka is a senior at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She majors in Computer Science. She is looking forward to working as a software engineer at Discover Financial Services. Priyanka is very grateful for the recognition of academic excellence through the CWM scholarship.

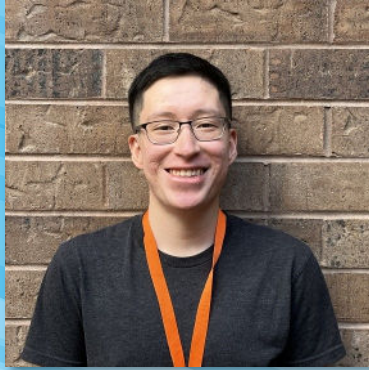


Meet CWM's "New" Employees

CWM has continued to bring employees on board full-time from staffing agencies and from outside the organization as well. Meet CWM's newest employees below!



Marina Garcia



Roberto Olvera



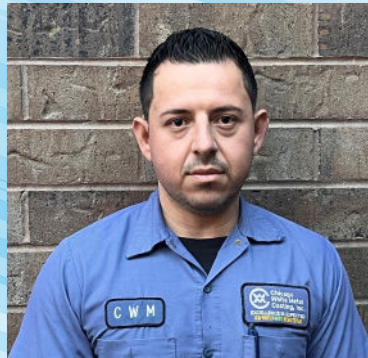
Mark Farley



Victor Hernandez



Byron Gomez



Jean Grajales



Lidia Palacios

CWM Trivia

1. Who were the two founders of CWM?
2. What sports team inspired the design for the CWM logo?
3. What was the date that we opened the new CWM facility in Bensenville, IL?
4. What was the address of the previous Chicago White Metal Plant?
5. Who was CWM's neighbor directly to the east of our old building in Chicago?

Answer Key:
1. Walter Treiber Sr. and Sam Gullo
2. The Chicago Cubs logo
3. July 1, 1977
4. 5239 W. Grand Ave.
5. Hawthorne Melody Ice Cream



Mission Statement & Cultural Pillars

*Create success by enriching the lives of others,
including our Chicago White Metal associates and
their families, our customers, suppliers,
and those who live and work in our
surrounding communities.*

Positive
Attitude



Respect



Commitments



Not Catering
to Rank



Transparency



Inside CWM is published by Chicago White Metal Casting, and its CNC Machining and Contract Manufacturing Divisions. It contains up-to-date news for all our employees, valued customers, sales representatives, friends, and supplier partners who are all equally vital to our success.

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