

November 3, 2021

38 Years of Service with Regina Roy

Regina Roy has achieved 38 years of service at Americhem working her way up from Lab Secretary to IT Help Desk Support to her current role as Application & Service Lead in IT. Regina was hired on November 7, 1983 through a temp agency and was quickly offered a full time position. She took interest in the IT department during her time in administrative roles. Regina has always loved helping people through her various IT roles and now enjoys overseeing many IT projects and playing a key role in Americhem's IT infrastructure.

To celebrate Americhem's 80 year anniversary, Regina was kind enough to be interviewed as one of Americhem's longest tenured employees. The dialogue was as follows:

What was the field of plastics like when you first started?
It was a very dirty environment back then; nothing like it is today. I knew that if I had to go into the plant for any reason, I would come out with pigment colors all over me. Being in the secretary role at the time, I knew not to wear my favorite pair of shoes to work on any of the days that I would be in the plant.

What were some of the biggest challenges back then?
From an IT perspective, one of the main challenges back then was opening our plant on Steels Corners Road in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. They had opened a position for IT Help Desk Support, which I applied for and was accepted. There were a lot of kinks to work through since it was a new plant with new systems. It was hard work, but very rewarding and I had fun being a part of the plant startup.

What changes have you seen in plastics?
Well, of course, the way that plastics companies operate now is very different. We used to write letters on typewriters back then and look where we are today with computers and even manufacturing equipment.



Picture 1: Regina Roy (front middle) with her Americhem colleagues around the early 2000's.

What have been the greatest developments in the field of plastics over the last 38 years?
One of the greatest developments is when Windows computers came out. It completely changed the way all business was done from Accounting to IT to Purchasing to Manufacturing. It changed the whole world.

From your perspective, what would you say are Americhem's greatest accomplishments?
Getting into new markets has really propelled Americhem's overall growth. We've expanded our product line, our technology offerings, and our global footprint. It has been incredible to be a part of over the years.

In your opinion, is there anything that Americhem should have done differently?
I can't think of anything that we should have done differently. Look at how far we have come from a handful of employees to over a thousand.

What are some of your fondest Americhem memories?
The relationships I have built over the years. Whether it was activities inside the office or outside the office; we would all hang out and be involved in each other's lives. Being with a company for decades, you see people come and go, but I have built many amazing friends that even though they may not work at Americhem anymore, we still all get together quite often. Even during quarantine, we would regularly have Zoom meetings to catch up.

What are the key issues that you see Americhem addressing in the future?

We will definitely be focusing on IT security because it is an ever-changing arena that we have to keep up with. Every day, electronic communications grow bigger and bigger and become more to handle. Between internal and external communications, there is a lot to manage and we do a fantastic job of staying ahead of the curve, but we will need to continue those aggressive efforts as Americhem continues to expand.

Please share one memory of a funny situation that you encountered at Americhem.

I've always been a very shy and quiet individual; I was actually terrified to go to work and talk to people when I first started at such a young age. Back then, the lab was a big open area and one of the guys I worked with was standing by the back of the lab where our main phone was located. It started ringing while I was in the middle of doing something and of course to tease me, he yelled over to me to answer the phone because he knew how shy I was. As the phone kept ringing, I finally said back, "Answer it yourself." Everybody started cracking up laughing because it was so unlike me and this guy was always a character. I think the fact that I even spoke up surprised everyone into tears of laughter.



Picture 2: Regina Roy at her desk in IT.

Describe what Americhem means to you.

Americhem has provided me with many opportunities over the years to grow not only in my career, but also as an individual. Something that has brought me great joy and amazing memories has been the time and financial ability to go on vacations. Americhem has always been generous with their PTO offerings and with the financial support of always having a great reliable job, I've been gifted the opportunity to see so much of the world that I never would've had the chance to do if not for this job. I've always been able to do the important things in life that mean the most to me and that is because of Americhem.

Thank you Regina for your endless commitment to Americhem and your timeless friendship to many of us. We wish you continued success in your long standing career and look forward to your ongoing positivity you spread across the company.