

## **What's *Our* Story – Part III**

### **One Member's Story**

#### **Ann Clarkson of CISP**

This year, we've been celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Employers' Association (EA) through a series of articles titled "What's *Our* Story?" Ann Clarkson, of member company CISP, was gracious enough to let me take a few minutes of her valuable time and find out a little more about her experiences as a long-time member. Ann is currently the HR Manager of CISP, an IT Solutions company which has been an active EA member since 2004; however, Ann has been involved with the EA for over 25 years with companies such as Sinclair Manufacturing and TL Industries.

**Jack: Why do you believe the EA has been able to serve the companies of Northwest Ohio and Southwest Michigan successfully for 60 years?**

Ann: The Employers' Association is such a valuable resource from my standpoint. We (CISP) save money by utilizing the many services available to us. If we were not members, we would have to subscribe to a large number of other organizations to get the same information. Everything is at your fingertips through the EA. It really is one-stop shopping with a friendly face.

**Jack: What service of the EA has been your personal favorite over the years?**

Ann: I really love reading the Bulletin newsletter because I find so many different and relative topics/articles all in one place. If I need more detail, it's all available to me through the web site or a quick call to the staff.

**Jack: What changes in The Employers' Association have you seen over the years?**

Ann: It seems like there is so much more interaction with members now than say, 15 years ago. I seem to know a lot more of the staff and they make a great effort to know me and my company. It has become a much more friendly organization.

**Jack: Do you have a memorable experience with the EA you could share?**

Ann: If you consider seminars and speakers, I think Tom Dixon of Eastman and Smith is one of your best. I remember when so many of us were very, very concerned about the potential Ohio legislation called "The Ohio Healthy Families Act". Tom did such a great job at the session, held at Brandywine, of answering our questions and helping us overcome our concerns. Thankfully, the law has yet to pass.

**Jack: What do you think is the most important thing the EA can do to be successful for 60 more years?**

Ann: It seems like the EA does many things very well. Like any organization, the EA will have to change with the times. The new Webinar and On-line Training offerings are great, and it seems to me those are the kinds of thing the EA will need to keep on doing in order to be successful.