

## **Spotlight on Larry Colclough, Project Manager**

After a career in the furniture industry spanning over 40 years, our Larry Colclough is semi-retiring with plans to hit the road with his wife, Wanda and explore our great nation via his RV. Here is our interview with Larry looking back on a job well done and insights he's gathered along the way.



### **Tell us about your career...40 years is a long time.**

*I've been working with Steelcase furniture since 1978. I was an installer before panels even had power in them. I watched the products evolve from stand up panels to Movable Walls, Avenir, Series 9000, Context, Elective Elements, Montage—all of it. I spent time in Grand Rapids in installer training, was eventually an installation manager, and became a Project Manager in 1999.*

### **What do you like about your job?**

*I love when designers put together a big plan and we show up to all the parts and pieces. It's like getting a big box of Legos and building a castle. Working "hands on" and seeing it all come together in a beautiful office environment always gave me such a sense of accomplishment.*

### **Were there any challenges you had to overcome that stand out in your memory?**

*Listen, it has all been fun for me to this point. The big jobs were always my favorite, but the challenges would be doing 200 workstations in a week's time. Some of these timelines were nearly impossible. But we did it. We are always at the mercy of construction delays. It took a lot of teamwork.*



**What do you think people say about you and the work you have done for so many years?**

*I hear my guys say I'm not human because I'm 67 and still work at the same speed as some of our 20-somethings. They get tired and frustrated sometimes, but I don't get worked up. I've seen it all. I guess you could say I am from the old school, and I just keep going. I'm not big on coffee and never had one of those energy drinks. But I'll sneak in a Snickers bar to keep on pushing.*

**What advice would you give to a new guy?**

*The main thing is to have fun with it. Set a goal every morning. Tell yourself you will build "this many" stations no matter what anyone else doing. That helps the day fly by quickly, and you will look back see how proud you will be with your work.*

**You intended to retire, but Rhonda wants you back part time when your RV adventure is over. How will your job change when you return?**

*I'm not 100% sure what Rhonda has in mind, but I hope it will be in a training or mentorship role. I could be a specialist for training our team on new products. Architectural products take special expertise, so getting advanced training on those would help me lead those teams. Because I have been exposed to so many installations I could also help with challenging situations as a troubleshooter.*

**Describe your RV itinerary—what do you hope to experience?**

*My wife Wanda and I are high school sweethearts. We always talked about what we were going to do when the kids were gone, and we were older. It was always about selling the house and hitting the road together in an RV. Well, our plan is working out except we kept the house. I really wanted to start by going west and do Route 66. Wanda wants to go east. So, we'll go east. Recently, I had a couple health problems, so it's time to go now. If I postpone it anymore Wanda says she'll be in prison, and I'll be dead. We are both so excited to explore at our own pace without any other obligations. So much to look forward to this coming year.*