



Newsletter Issue No. 77

August 2022

## Happy Birthday, TekSynap!

More than 14 years ago, TekSynap was founded on the core thought, 'we can do this differently.' Kam and Dave's 'different' revolved around the way people are treated. As employees, we are offered a robust benefits package, a transparent workplace, and are encouraged to contribute ideas and unique points of view.

Our customers know they are our priority and when asked to solve a problem, TekSynap employees rise to meet any challenge. Over the years, we have grown in the number of contracts we oversee, the size and scope of our projects, and in the number of employees. A company which started with a 1-person contract, 14 years ago, is poised to reach 1000 full-time employees before the end of the third quarter.



At the forefront of this growth are our employees; they love their jobs, appreciate their projects, and are dedicated to supporting the customer's mission. There is no greater testimony to our employee culture than employee referrals. Some of our best employees have come from referrals. This is why TekSynap incentivizes referrals for open roles and opportunities.

According to [an article](#) published by Indeed, employee referrals tend to be a better culture fit, have high retention rates, and reduce hiring costs. It is believed employees align themselves with like-minded individuals who demonstrate similar work ethics resulting in a referral that reflects positively upon the employee.

TekSynap hired 233 referrals between 2017 and 2021. At the end of 2021, 177 of those referrals were still employed with an average tenure of 17.8 months. In the first six months of 2022, we have hired an astounding 97 referrals. Our goal is to keep this momentum going and surpass that number by the end of the year!

As we embark on what is likely a record-setting year for the company, we have added a new referral incentive program. The Sail Away Referral Program will run for the remainder of the year, more information can be found below and on the employee portal.

Keep bringing your ideas to the table, supporting your mission, and refer your friends. Happy 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday TekSynap and cheers to smooth sailing!!!

**Kearstin McGinnis, VP of Employment**

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## SAIL AWAY REFERRAL PROGRAM



TekSynap is growing fast. We're ready to hire 100 new team members by the end of the year, and we've developed an exciting incentive program for you to help us make that happen. To learn more, [\*click here\*](#).



**Pearl Prince's son, Brett, and Wayne Wisneski's son, Blake**, were selected to represent Annandale North Springfield (ANSLL) Little League in District 10 Northern Virginia All-Star Tournament in June. Brett, Blake, and their teammates spent 2 intense weeks, training twice a day, to prepare for the tournament. Although the tournament outcome was not in ANSLL's favor, the boys played great baseball. They showed dedication and drive but most importantly teamwork. Pearl and Wayne would like to give a heartfelt thank you to TekSynap for their sponsorship!



### Caught in the Act

Congratulations to **Martie Wadsworth** for being selected for the Employee of the month of July!

Congrats to the **SA Team** for being the key contributor to the successfully completed SIPR Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Audit!

**Ian Barbier, Steve Barber, John Miller, Mark Miller, Tim Carreras, and Ernesto Ventura** received kudos from a customer for amazing work at DLA.



The **DTRA TO1 Team** was sent kudos for their mission focus when working over a weekend.

A customer sent in kudos for **David Johnson** and **Jessie Ragsdale**; their efforts enabled the customer to continue their mission despite obstacles.

A customer recognized **Lucy McMahan** for her professionalism, knowledge, and most importantly, customer service skills.

Christine Schemmel would like to acknowledge **John Alfaro** for his flexibility and quick response to her security questions and needs.

The **NRC MAS Team** was recognized by a customer for their hard work and dedication.

A customer gave kudos for **Adam Cruea's** amazing work.

**Terrance's Sullivan's** support to Phalanx has been, and is, nothing short of noteworthy.

**Timothy Clarke** received kudos for providing exceptional support for a long day of webcasts. He was also given kudos for being responsive and getting issues solved for VIPs at DTRC.

Congratulations to **Ian Goodwin** and **Mackella Rohan** for completing the DoD Cyber Awareness Challenge 2022!

The following employees were recognized by our DLA customers as going above and beyond in providing excellent service in the 2nd quarter of 2022:

**Pablo Julia Ocasio, Emily Perna, Michael Lorincz, Alan Parker, Ernest Sanford, Logan Bennett, Sheryl Janke, Josh Smith, David Digiovanni, Steven Howard, Mike Freeman, Tayler Fullen, Eric Gilmore, Will Updyke, Kevin Yost, Keith Hicks, Ralph Egbert, Mariel Le, Dalton Stouffer, Marcus Dalton, Lon Magan, Brandon Porter, Nasrat Rahman, David Ward, Rommel Miguel, Cory Broughton, Jean-Paul Girulat, Christopher Seigle, Kevin Winz, Richard Branagh, Vinh Le, James McCord, Nancy Bell, Travaughn Cope, Conner Bruce, Ryan Sandlin, Bill Schafer, Jeffrey Bent, Jonathan Orr, Bria Wilkins, Daquante Martin, Susan Brumfield, Jonathan Sutherland, Yadiel Valentin, Anthony Bosco, Daniel Boes, Jada Coe, Keyon Conner, Zachery Rinker, and Andrew Montz.**

Don't forget to let your Quality team know about all the good things going on at TekSynap by submitting your Kudos on the **[Employee Portal](#)**. We use these to recognize TekSynap greatness in the monthly Newsletter.



## TekPets

### Meet Christa Ciccone's Puppy!

My Mini American Shepherd Logan!



He's a hopeful show dog and currently does dock diving lessons and FastCAT! He will be 2 years old on Oct 1, 2022. He's got a great sense of humor, and loves playing with other dogs, toys, and people. He will do anything for a treat!

### Meet Darrin and Kimberly's new puppy!

Jack is 14 weeks old Whippet and loves to test the patience of his two dog sisters, Olive and Daisy.



*Feature your pets in the next newsletter!*  
Send pictures of your companions to [news@teksynap.com](mailto:news@teksynap.com)

## USE YOUR PTO!!



Let me tell you a little story about an individual that hoarded all his PTO and never used it. What was he hoarding it up for?! He did not have a good answer. Maybe for the zombie apocalypse! Well, that individual was me. To this day, I do not know why I hoarded my PTO, but I can tell you the day I stopped. It was March 19, 2016, the day my daughter was born.

During a conversation with a very wise man (David Gauldfeldt), shortly after the birth of my daughter, he happened to say, "If you are lucky, you have 18 summers to spend with your children." That conversation struck a chord with me and has stuck with me ever since. I started using my PTO and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. It gave me time to rest and recharge, so when I returned to work I was motivated, focused, and inspired.

There are numerous studies that show that employees are happier in areas of their lives, such as professional success, relationships with families and friends, physical health, and more, when they utilize their time off. Taking time off helps to remind us of who we are outside of work. Oftentimes, our interests and hobbies get put by the wayside when we feel bogged down at work. Time off helps you revive your relationships with family members and friends who may take a back seat at times. I know this is true for me.

We always hear the phrase, "Life is short," and in all honesty, it really is. That is why we all need to make the time to enjoy it. Say hello to a stranger, hop into a random tavern and grab a pint, or stop and enjoy a beautiful sunset.

Now go and take your well-deserved PTO!

**Frank Amrhein, SVP Operations**

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### Certification Corner

AIRS  
**Amy Doak**

Certified Wireless Technician  
**Cole Withers**

CISSP - ISSEP  
**Corey Ogletree**

CISSP  
**Karen Billingsley**

CompTIA Sec+  
**Gerald Coles**



AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner  
**LeTonya Love**

CISSP  
**Anshul Amin**

CASP+  
**Ryan Daniels**

Juniper NC Internet Associate  
**Robert Bradshaw**

Certified Change Practitioner  
**Tami Devitt**

CISM  
**Matthew Rosov**

CAPM  
**Andrew Warsewich**

Network+ CE  
**Paul Wojton**

Certified Wireless Technician  
**Christopher Witt**

Certified Scrum Master  
**Henry Tennant**

Mist Certifications  
**Kenneth Walker**  
**Isaiah Archer**  
**Curtiss Lasserre**  
**Isaiah Thomas**

CWNA  
**Daniel Bisel**  
**Mitchell Clouse**  
**Ryan Hinkle**  
**Kevin Persels**

Security+ CE  
**Adam Craig**  
**Steven Ivy**  
**Thomas Reid**

ITILv4 Foundations  
**Florence Guerra**  
**Lucy McMahan**  
**Joe Herbert**  
**Warren McQueen**  
**Frederick Wolfe**  
**Ray Eiley**

Melanie Springs  
Stanley Beaver  
Ashley Frederick  
Ami Bello  
David Fulton  
Pierre Bowery  
Brandon Groenert  
Patrick Burke  
Satya Vaddavalli  
Kathy Lincoln  
Kalynn Workheiser  
Travaughn Cope  
Omar Flores  
Jeremy McGowan  
Clidell Sabree



## Employee Learning Program

Employees are encouraged to use the Employee Learning Program (ELP) Benefit. [Click Here](#) to access the form.

If you have earned a new certification please add it to your ADP profile. Remember to include the effective date.

**ADP > Myself > My Information > Profile**

And email a copy to [HR@teksynap.com](mailto:HR@teksynap.com)

**Updating your certifications in ADP will help us identify you for career advancement opportunities.**

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## Open Positions

**DARPA MNSS – Arlington, VA**  
Network Engineer

**Enterprise Storage – Columbus, OH & Dayton, OH**  
Systems Engineer

**LAN Central – Texarkana, TX**  
Senior Network Engineer  
Network Engineer

**Firewall – Columbus, OH, New Cumberland, PA or Ft. Belvoir, VA**  
Firewall Administrator

**EDIS – Telework**  
Database Administrator (Oracle)

**FAA – Washington, DC**  
Cloud Systems Administrator

**ESD II – Warner Robins, GA**



Desktop Support Technician Lead  
Desktop Support Technician (Computer Operator)

#### **DTRA – Reston, VA**

Cybersecurity Engineer  
Senior Systems Engineer

#### **AFNCR**

Microsoft SCOM (Systems Center Operations Manager)  
Senior Information System Security Officer  
DRSN Technician  
VMware Systems Engineer

#### **DHS CISA**

Journeyman Operations Research Analyst  
SME Operations Research Analyst

#### **FDA**

Deskside Tier II Tech  
Help Desk Analyst

#### **NRC SNCC**

SIEM Application Engineer  
Security Engineering Subject Matter Expert  
Sr Active Directory Administrator

#### **Wireless**

Site Manager (telework w/travel)  
Jr Wireless Engineer (Telework w/travel)  
Project Manager

#### **Senate – Washington, DC**

System Consultant

#### **DTRA ITSS – Fort Belvoir, VA**

Procurement Manager

#### **HQ**

Contracts Administrator - Telework  
Staff Accountant I

Please email your referral resumes to [careers@teksynap.com](mailto:careers@teksynap.com)

Laura Garcia Hacek and Kearstin McGinnis visited with our NGA team in St. Louis.

Pictured, left to right: **Kearstin, Ben Kessler, Russell Saunders, Kenneth Parker and Laura**







Kearstin and Laura voted as "Best Recruiters" by the participants at the AFCEA Mid-America CyberSpace Conference. Great job team!

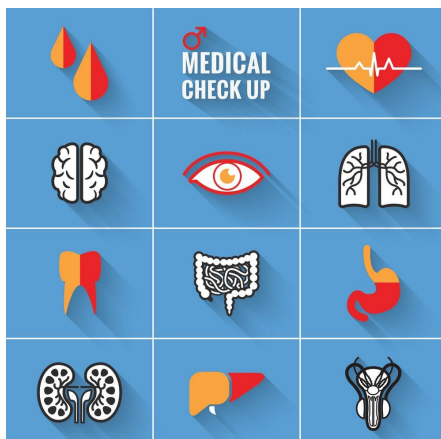
Open Enrollment will start on September 9<sup>th</sup> and run through September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Current benefit enrollments will auto-renew if no changes are made by September 16, 2022 **(FSA accounts will not auto-renew)**.



There will be two Open Enrollment webinars, **Monday, September 12th at 10 am-11 am EST** and **Wednesday, September 14 at 3 pm-4 pm EST**.

## Don't forget your annual checkup this year!



### How often should adults get a checkup?

The recommendations regarding the frequency of routine checkups are based on your age, risk factors, and current health status.

While opinions vary, routine checkups with your doctor are generally recommended as follows:

- once every 3 years if you're under the age of 50 and in good health
- once a year once you turn 50
- If you have a chronic disease, like diabetes or COPD for instance, you should see your doctor more frequently, no matter how old you are.

### What are the benefits of regular checkups?

Regular checkups with your healthcare provider can benefit your health in many ways. Some of the key benefits include:

- finding potentially *life threatening health issues* early before they cause a problem
- early treatment of health conditions, which increases the odds of a good outcome
- regular monitoring of existing health issues, which lowers the risk of worsening symptoms or severe complications
- staying up-to-date on *vaccinations* and screening tests
- limiting extra healthcare costs associated with treating complicated or serious conditions that aren't caught early
- developing and maintaining an open, honest relationship with your *primary care physician* (PCP)
- learning new ways to live a healthy, longer life and improving your health

If you are on our Cigna Medical insurance, don't forget to **check your account** to find in-network providers, view your claims, or review your HRA.

## Report A Security Change Or Concern About Others

### **What is an Insider Threat?**

An insider threat is defined as the threat that an employee, contractor or individual with access to government information, systems or facilities will use his or her authorized access, wittingly or unwittingly, to do harm to the security of the United States.

### **What should be reported?**

- Mishandling of Classified Information
- Misuse of Computer Systems
- Suspicious Cyber Incidents
- Foreign Influence
- Suspicious Contacts
- Suspicious Financial Activity
- Recording Devices

### **Who should you report an insider threat to?**

If you are not affiliated with the government as an employee, military member or contractor and find yourself in a position where you believe you need to report an insider threat, you would contact your local law enforcement or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).



2022  
WALK ABOUT MINI GOLF WINNERS  
John Thompson and Galen Jones  
Putt Pirates



Congratulations to John Thompson and Galen Jones (Putt Pirates) for winning  
TekSynap's Oculus Walk About Mini Golf Tournament!

Putt Pirates were awarded the TekSynap Championship Green Jacket,  
\$200 TekDollars, and  
were added to our Oculus trophy plaque at Reston HQ.

Thank you to all the participants and everyone who helped to make this tournament a reality!  
We are all looking forward to the next tournament in 2023!

Please view the [VR portal](#) to view the final listings and encourage your [feedback](#)!



Congratulations to **Lindsey Dale, Frank Amrhein, and James Brown** for reaching 5 years with TekSynap!

Your \$5,000 vacation is right around the corner



## Anniversaries

### Five Years

Lindsey Dale  
Frank Amrhein  
James Brown

### Four Years

Thomas Owens  
Jacqueline Soltero  
Ryan Hinkle  
David Reed

### Three Years

Alexei Kossobokov  
Cindy Kienzler  
Kendall Collinson  
Jessica Huddle  
Jason Hurd  
Logan Edens

### Two Years

Robert Cooke  
Michael O'Connell  
Jude Onwumelu  
Alexander Thrower  
Melanie Springs  
Steven Doubler

### One Year

Jonathan Orr  
Russell Saunders  
Stephen Broussard  
Durell Black  
Jamie Patterson  
Jodi Keyfauver

## Welcome, New Employees!

Ken Wood  
Debra Watts  
Nicholas Caldwell  
Mackella Rohan  
Ian Goodwin  
Fernando Arias  
Whit Mason  
Maurice Gordon  
Kyle Hill  
Glynn Johnson  
Cory Brown  
Chanel Springs  
John Holland  
Joshua Boose  
Kevin Creamer  
Hilda Esposito  
John Besrat  
Heather Allred  
Ken Green  
Kevin Williams  
Barabar Nowak  
Perlson Terry  
Laura Woodward  
Dwight Neely  
Dondre Robinson-Green  
Kevin Brumbaugh  
Jeremy Antonuccio  
Richard Ameyaw  
Quentin Flanders  
Timothy Saine  
Joshua Williamson  
Gregory Newland  
Arkameia Drone  
John Lucidi



George Adams

Joshua Ramey

Ryan Sandlin

Curtis Mckine

Timothy McCaw

Colton Phillips

Susan Brumfield

Christopher Bullock

Sandip Aujla

Patricia Connolly

Kathryn Schuster

Lloyd Ofori-Asomaning

Joel Vaughn

Gordon McKinley

