



PRESSing NEWS

November 2025

Thanksgiving Message to Our Employee Owners

Dear Team,

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. This season reminds us of the importance of reflection and appreciation—and I can think of no better time to acknowledge the incredible dedication, teamwork, and ownership you bring to our company every day.

As employee-owners, you do more than simply come to work, you invest your time, your talents, and your ideas into making our business stronger. It's that sense of shared purpose and commitment that makes our success possible. Together, we've faced challenges, celebrated milestones, and continued to grow as a united team.

This Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for each of you—your hard work, your pride in what we do, and the respect and care you show for one another. I hope the holiday gives you time to relax, recharge, and enjoy good food and even better company with family and friends.

From all of us at Valco and A & E, thank you for everything you do to make our company something we can all be proud of.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,

Eddie Leventhal
President



Spotlight of the Month: Brandi Sanders

This month we are highlighting **Brandi Sanders**, one of our Independent Trustees. Brandi joined SCJ Fiduciary Services in 2024 after a 20-year finance and accounting career at a food ingredient manufacturer, where she ultimately served as CFO. Her experience spans M&A, risk management, foreign currency hedging, treasury management, and overseeing the creation and termination of an ESOP. She also worked in the energy sector, focusing on federally regulated public reporting and rate case proceedings.

A Louisville, Kentucky native, Brandi holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Business Administration from the University of Louisville. She is a CPA, CGMA, and CMA, and is active in several professional organizations including the NCEO, ESOP Association, Kentucky Society of CPAs, AICPA, and IMA.

Her passion for employee ownership began during her years as an ESOP employee owner. When the chance to join SCJ arose, she felt called to support companies on their ESOP journey.

Outside of work, Brandi enjoys golfing with her husband of 26 years, traveling with their two adult children, and cheering on the Denver Nuggets.

We are grateful to have Brandi and SCJ as trusted partners. They have supported our ESOP journey even before we officially became a 100% employee-owned company, and we look forward to working with them in the years ahead

What does an Independent Trustee do?

Independent trustees have a legal duty to act in the best interests of the ESOP. They protect plan assets, advocate for employee owners, and serve as the company's shareholder. At Valco, the SCJ team leads the annual valuation process, ensures plan compliance, engages an independent valuation firm, and provides education and oversight.





happy BIRTHDAY

Kenneth Duque Gomez. . . Dec. 7th
Taylor Gift Dec. 10th
Jose Rivers Pagan Dec. 12th
Roberto Cruz Sierra Dec. 12th
Derwin Reams Dec. 15th
Joey Guinn. Dec. 17th
Megan Clark Dec. 17th
Jerry Shingler Dec. 19th
Brayanth Guerrero Barrientos
. Dec. 23rd
Renea Bailey Dec. 28th
Toby Clark. Dec. 29th

Wow! What a great month December has been for hiring some great people. We wish each of you a very happy birthday, and surely hope your big day is a great day. We hope your new year is a healthy one with lots of good times, lots of laughs, lots of parts to fabricate and much continued success. Here's hoping for many more birthday celebrations in the years ahead and the good health to know what you are celebrating. Enjoy!

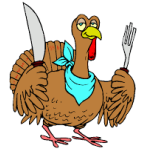
Years of Service

Megan Clark. . . . Dec. 4 . . . 2 Years
Teddy Griffith. . . . Dec. 9 . . 1 Year
Maya Blankenship. Dec. 11. .2 Years
Darren Perez . . . Dec. 16. . 1 Year
Josue Mendoza. . . Dec. 17. . 1 Year
Richard Ater. . . Dec. 19. . .9 Years!!
Sai Charan Thota. . Dec. 30. . 1 Year

We thank each of you for being part of the Valco Team. We appreciate all you have done over the years and that you continue to do for Valco and our many customers every day. Working together we sure have come a very long way. We look forward to working with each of you in 2026 and well beyond. Let's Keep On Keeping On!

Thanksgiving Schedule

Turkey Day is almost here! We'll be celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 27, and all Valco associates will receive a paid day off to enjoy the festivities—whether that means a big meal, cheering on some football (Go Bucks!), or spending quality time with family and friends.



Valco will also be closed on Friday, November 28, with normal production and shipping operations resuming on Monday, December 1.

As in past years, we're grateful for our team and are happy to provide Thanksgiving gift cards to each Valco associate to help make your holiday meal a little easier and more enjoyable.

Please remember to stay smart, safe, and vigilant throughout the long weekend. Your health and safety remain Job No. 1 at Valco. Wishing everyone a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving!

Christmas & New Year Holiday Schedule

The holiday season is right around the corner! Please take note of the upcoming closures and paid holidays:

Christmas Holiday

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day (Paid Holiday)

Friday, December 26 – Closed

Normal operations will resume on Monday, December 29

New Year's Holiday

Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day (Paid Holiday)

Friday, January 2 – Closed

Normal production hours and schedules will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026.

We hope everyone has a joyful and relaxing holiday season and enjoys time with family and friends. Please remember to stay safe and smart throughout the celebrations. We look forward to seeing everyone in January 2026!



Great Quotes

"Never regret anything that made you smile." Mark Twain

"Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions." Dalai Lama XIV

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." Martin Luther King Jr.

"Consider how hard it is to change yourself and you'll understand what little chance you have of trying to change others."

"People are always waiting for something to happen before they change their lives; they have it backwards; when you change your life, big things are more likely to happen."

HAPPY
thanksgiving

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