

## Certification Training at AFI — May 8, 2008

Al Baer, Process Engineer, gathered five AFI employees: Wade Gordon, Larry Myking, Jarrod Schreyer, Isaac Helget, and Christine Doering to complete AFI's Inspection Certification Training. The training objective is to improve overall quality of product for our external and internal customers. These five employees were certified and given the responsibility of assuring the quality of AFI's outgoing products.

The training consisted of three different segments; how to perform tests, recording test results, and hands-on testing. We currently have 35 employees trained in the AFI Inspection Certification Program.

## Happy Anniversary!!!

On June 17, 2008

**AFI celebrated 30 years of service with Ted Schreyer, our Vice President of Operations**  
**Congratulations Ted — Many More!!!!**

## FUN FACTS FROM 1978

- ▶ President-Jimmy Carter
- ▶ 1978 Dow Jones-742.12 to 907.74
- ▶ Life expectancy-73.5 years
- ▶ Loaf of Bread-\$.42
- ▶ New House-\$54,749.00
- ▶ Vice President-Walter Mondale (From MN)
- ▶ Minimum Wage-\$2.65
- ▶ Gallon of Gas-\$.63
- ▶ Gallon of Milk- \$1.72
- ▶ New Car-\$5,405.00

**Fun Facts about Ted: Ted was 16 years old when he started working part-time at AFI. Ted has been a valuable employee to AFI in the past and will be in the future.**



We have added another Employee Communications Board giving all employees the opportunity to view important AFI information. Ann Austad, our HR Director, does a great job of adding interesting and important information every month.

### \*\*\*\*\* Website Updates \*\*\*\*\*

Our website has seen increasing traffic throughout the year. Last year, in the month of June 2007, we recorded 44 visitors. We recently pulled a report for June 2008 and we received 116 visits for the month. The website has varied information, including our AFI video that gives a visual of how we serve our many valued customers and the services we offer. For our customers ease of use we conveniently also feature a tab you can click on to request a quote. When you get an opportunity, read the article on our home page from the Products Finishing Magazine featuring AFI in their April 2008 issue.

**What's new?** We recently added a new section to our website; VFAQ's (Very Frequently Asked Questions). We know that many of our customers have questions and we want to accommodate all of your requests. If you have not visited our website lately, please take a few minutes and visit us.

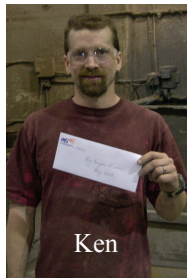
Check out our website at [www.associatedfinishing.com](http://www.associatedfinishing.com)  
 We welcome quotes - e-mail to: [quotes@associatedfinishing.com](mailto:quotes@associatedfinishing.com)  
 or fax to Associated Finishing, Inc. (507) 345-5828



**Kaizen Winners!** April winner, Mike Reinarts, received a \$25 gift certificate to Gordmans. We had two May winners: Ken Wikre and Brian Christnagel. They each won “The Works” certificate to Gerring’s Car Wash. June’s winner was Shari Small, receiving a \$30.00 gift certificate for Hilltop Meat Market. July winner, of a \$25.00 Kwik Trip gift certificate, was Bill Neegaard.



Mike



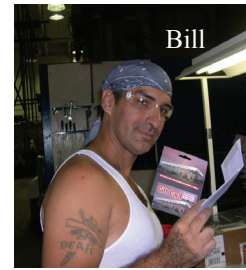
Ken



Brian



Shari



Bill

you who have participated in the

Thank to all monthly Kaizen events.

AFI’s Lean

Steering Committee is looking into a new format for Kaizen’s in the future. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information.



How well do you know AFI’s employees? In AFI’s last newsletter we featured 15 of our employees who have unique hobbies or interests. You were to match them up and see how many you could get right. We are not going to give you all the answers at once, but in a series of newsletters. We will be featuring four this month.

**AFI Mascot—SoCo** is a match (pictured at right). You can find SoCo outside the plant often....sometimes in the plant too. His owner Larry Pfeffer, retired from AFI in 2007. (SoCo’s name is short for Southern Comfort—Larry’s favorite drink).

**Bear Hunter—Gene Hoffman** is a match (pictured at left). I do not have a picture of Gene and his bear, but we all saw the bear-skin rug he brought in last year. Gene retired from AFI. He moved up north to be near the bears. (No, just kidding-his kids and grandkids). The picture shows what some of Gene’s co-workers did on his last day at AFI!!! (We ran out of TP in the women’s bathroom that day for some reason)

**Most Seasoned Painter— Larry Olfert** is a match. Larry has been working at AFI for 23 years, he started October 18, 1984. All but two months of that time he has been a powder coater for AFI. Larry has taught himself and has been to many seminars to master his powder coating techniques. He will be quick to say experience has been his best teacher. The best change Larry has seen at AFI is better chemicals for pre-cleaning parts. Several years back, Larry had a valve replaced in his heart which caused him to make some changes in his life at home and at work. He is no longer a supervisor...he says he is just a painter. Larry is more than that, he is very resourceful and is always looking for better ways to hang parts for painting, and takes pride in his work. He has also been instrumental in helping train other painters at AFI. Larry spends time outside of work with his family; attending grandchildren’s plays and concerts, gardening, cutting wood, and traveling. The center picture above one of the most unique parts Larry has painted at AFI.

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**Vintage Scooter Enthusiast—Reggie Williams** is a match. Most of you know Reggie as the AFI Truck Driver. However, Reggie drives more than trucks. One of Reggie’s most unique scooters is the one that is pictured left. He bought the saddle first, then the horse hair and then manufactured this unique scooter. We asked him how many scooters he owns and he said, “TOO MANY”! Reggie has had many of his scooter parts painted at AFI, the orange “pumpkin bike” pictured in the last newsletter was painted at AFI. In 1985, Reggie bought his first scooter and a second one in the early 90’s. That is how his hobby began and he explained most of the scooters have found him. Reggie has been driving truck for AFI for 15 plus years and loves the family atmosphere and flexibility here at AFI.

Be sure to look for the next four featured AFI employees in December’s newsletter!!!

# Christmas in July at AFI

Christmas in July has gotten to be a tradition at AFI. This year all employees and their families were invited to spend a night in the Moon Dogs— Dog Pound. We had plenty of good food and drinks. The weather was a bit windy, but beautiful. The game was called at the end of the 6th inning due to in climate weather. Our own John Kapsner threw out the first pitch (I believe it was a strike; John still has it).



Our own painter Larry Olfert in white shirt and sunglasses and wife Phil. (picture 1 on left). Our fearless leader, Chuck Klammer, having a great time. (picture 2 on left)



A row of AFI employees enjoying the food and fun.. Take a look at the clouds in the sky.



We start them out young as Moon Dog fans. Here is John Kapsner and his granddaughter Anna Jo!



Blue Ox Jazz Babies Band entertained us as we enjoyed the Dog Pound! Notice that the Tuba player is someone we know very well. (Hint, he will be featured in our next newsletter.)