



Associated Addition

Page 1

April 2010

Business Address

320 Mallard Lane
Mankato, MN

56001

Phone: 866-345-5861

Fax: 507-345-5828

We're on the Web

www.associatedfinishing.com

E-mail Quotes

quotes@

associatedfinishing.com

Fax Quotes

Fax: 507-345-5828

Need help with:

Order pick-up

Brian Christnagel

866-345-5861 ext 211

Status on an order

Ryan Kapsner

866-345-5861 ext. 246

OR

Jammy Harroun

866-345-5861 ext. 221

Quality

Alan Baer

866-345-5861 ext 206

OR

Christine Doering

866-345-5861 ext 212

Associated Additions are Awesome!!!

2009 ended with some very exciting changes at AFI. In addition to our 5- stage washer system, we installed a new 3- stage washer system. Some of the benefits of our new system:

- Modular design makes it easier for future expansion
- Small foot print—utilizing space we already had.
- Energy efficient—using reclaimed heat from our current belt-washer to heat this system.
- Low temperature chemicals, saving energy and allowing AFI to hold price increases to our customers.



This system now gives us less material handling which allows us to speed up the process of pretreatment and painting.

One of the largest concerns at AFI for the past year has been capacity. Associated Finishing chose to make these changes to meet the needs of our customers.

We have added 180 feet of line to make this new system known at AFI as the **BLUE** line where we can paint either liquid or powder.



Survey Says!

The nuts, bolts, and thingamajigs pool results based on response of 500 teens

A new national poll shows a majority of teens (52%) have little or no interest in manufacturing careers and another 21 % are ambivalent. When asked why, a whopping 61% said they would seek a professional career, far surpassing other issues such as pay (17%), career growth (15%), and physical work (14%). The survey of 500 teens reveals that efforts are still needed to change perception. The poll shows six in ten

teens(61%) have never visited or toured a factory or other manufacturing facility. Only 28% have taken an industrial arts or shop class, yet more than double that number (58%) have completed a home economics course. Almost 3 in 10 teens (27%) spend no time during the week working with their hands on projects such as woodworking or models, 30% less than one hour and just 26% one to two hours. A separate national

poll of 1,000 adults reveals that parents actually would support having a young factory worker in the family. More than half (56%) would recommend their child pursue a career in manufacturing or another kind of industrial trade. More than 70% of Americans view manufacturing as the most important industry for a strong national economy.

(Article used with permission from TSMA's January's 2010 newsletter)

PLUNGE FOR POLIO

Janesville Rotary members took a chilly dip in Lake Elysian, near Waterville, Minnesota, to raise money for polio immunization. Our own Scott Niss, estimator, took the plunge. The event raised over \$2,000! The article read that on Sunday, February 1, dozens of Janesville residents showed up on the southern shore of Lake Elysian to watch seven normally "sane" individuals jump into the icy waters. Scott was quoted as saying he wanted to go first so he would not have to think about how cold the water was going to be. We know that Scott has been doing a lot of quoting this past year, but we never knew it would drive him to take the plunge!!!

WAY TO GO SCOTT!



Picture and article snippets compliments of the Janesville Argus Paper.



**Kaizen Japanese word
meaning continuous
change**



Kaizen Korner

We have always been amazed by the ingenious ideas of our employees, but lately they have really shined. Continuing down the lean road, we have encouraged Kaizen's at AFI. We divided the year by thirds and gave the employees opportunities to submit their performed Kaizen. 1st winner was Tom Wanta winning \$100.00 cash. 2nd winner, Mary Lynn Devens winning \$100.00 cash. Honorable mention went to Connie Kump, Becky Baer, Cal Schultz, receiving \$20 cash each. Chrissy Sather, Shari Small receiving \$10 cash each. At our January employee meeting there were several winners and because the ideas were so good we divided the money. Will Flowers, and Jammey Harroun each won \$50 cash. Larry Olfert, Kristi

Ouellette, Terry Harroun, and Terry McMichael each received \$25 cash. Over the past year the Lean Committee received over 31 Kaizen's saving AFI thousands of dollars. The committee decided, due to the success of this program, we would continue on in 2010. A total of \$200 cash will be given at our next employee meeting to the person (s) who can perform and submit the best Kaizen.

**Kudos on Kaizen's everyone!
And the next winner will be?**



CLEAN-UP ON ISLE TWO?

There has been some cleaning commotion going on at AFI. We have a designated 5S crew that is making it's way around the plant, cleaning and painting areas in need. We know all too well the hours fly by at work and it's hard to get extra time in a day to do a bit of cleaning. AFI does monthly audits directed by the Lean Steering Committee. These au-

dits are put in place to help each department improve from its last audit. As you can see by the pictures, there have been some major 5S projects performed, paint room clean-up and inventory, updating paint chip files. (pictures left). Thank you to our 5S crew and all employees who have participated in making AFI a cleaner place to work. But,

wait...our 5S projects continue to be a work in progress for all AFI employees.



Another “New” Process added at AFI!!

AFI has added another service to our list of metal finishing products giving our customers another process allowing them to have one stop finishing.

Trivalent Chromium Pretreatment (TCP)

This system was developed by the U. S. Navy (NAVAIR). Features and benefits are:

- Extends protection additive
- Applies corrosion protection on aluminum
- Provides adhesion for subsequent coatings
- Thin Chemical Film—0.25 micron
- Applies Trivalent Chromates verses Hexavalent chromates
- Improves environment and health issues-a very green product
- Prevents oxide formation
- Provides adhesion for organic coating such as paint, and helps prevent corrosion of painted surface
- Conductive
- Used as environmentally friendly anodize seal
- Complies to ALL European Directive (RoHs Compliant)
- Energy savings with ambient temperatures

Conforms to MIL-DTE 81706B & MIL-DTL 5541F & ASTM 3359 & 2559-9

This new process will offer the one stop shop for our customers which is vital for turn time on orders. By adding this new chromating process, along with our new 3-stage washer and current 3-stage belt washer, we are able to serve all our customers needs in pre-treatment of metals. For more information on this process call AFI at 866-345-5861 (toll-free).

Eugene “Tiny” Johnson Retires after 11 years



Tiny's Retirement Party at AFI
3-18-2010
The cake was

Maybe you met Tiny as he was dropping off or picking up parts at your business. Tiny has had many jobs at AFI: painter, supervisor, truck driver. Tiny says the best thing about working at AFI is the people and the changes have all been good. Tiny's activities will be golf, wood working, lawn work, and grilling. Tiny's been married to his wife for 12 years. They have 3 children and 2 grand children. Tiny plans to continue working part-time at AFI. Tiny was asked if you could meet one famous person before you die who would it be? His answer, Jesus. Thank you Tiny for all your dedicated years of service at AFI.

All Employee Meetings at AFI are Informative

Every quarter employees at AFI gather together in our lunchroom and discuss AFI business. These meetings last about 2 hours. We begin our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, opening remarks, and financial reports. This gives all our employees ownership and knowing how the company we work for is faring in this time of recession. Each department gives a report. There is an open microphone time to ask questions. Kaizen winners are announced. We wrap up our meeting with misc. announcements, and prize giveaways. These meetings give our employees the opportunity to learn about the present and future of AFI. Most of the employees I have talked with appreciate the

ability to ask and share openly about any topic they may have questions about. Occasionally we will use these meetings for recognizing anniversaries.

In February, AFI treated all their employees with a "SUB DAY". It was enjoyed and appreciated by all. There are many benefits given to AFI employees showing how much they are appreciated, which include: Medicharge H.R.A., reimbursement for safety glasses, steel toed shoes and a Christmas party. These are a few of the reasons why we have so many long standing employees. WE are all treated like family.

