

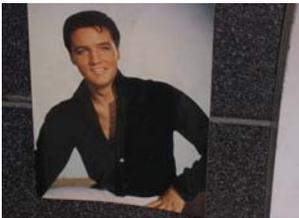
ASSOCIATED EXPRESS



320 Mallard Lane, Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: (507) 345-5861 Fax: (507) 345-5828 Summer 2007

Inside Summer Issue

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VIVA Las Vegas

AFI led a presentation on a Certified Quality Program at the PCI Custom Coaters Seminar held at Harrah's in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 23-24 of 2007. This presentation was part of a series of presentations for custom powder coaters and PCI member representatives. Viewed as leaders in the quality process, we were given the opportunity to share the knowledge we have put into action. Al Baer, Ted Schreyer, Scott Niss, Chuck Klammer have all confirmed it was an excellent and awesome experience for the AFI team.

Elvis has left the building!

OUT WITH THE OLD * IN WITH THE NEW

First quarter at Associated Finishing, Inc. has brought about changes on how we will be doing business in 2007. As you all know, strategies of doing business change every day. We are featuring one of our changes in this newsletter. Associated Finishing, Inc. today is a company that for four decades adheres to our founding principles and philosophy. Service and support are the most important elements in creating a successful, reputable business. AFI, staying competitive and more user friendly than ever before, has recently purchased and installed a new burn-off oven. This oven means faster turn around time on burn-off projects which helps our customers by greatly reducing their turn around time. What used to take us 4 hours, now only takes us 1-2 hours. The Steelman oven is 30% larger and cycle times are 40%-50% faster than our previous oven. This oven also provides a detailed record of time and temperature that parts were exposed to. It also features excellent heat distribution to eliminate "hot spots" that tend to soften hooks after repeated cycles.



Christine Doering, Sales and Marketing Manager. Christine has many years in the sales and marketing field: KXLP Radio, American Cancer Society, and National Sales Manager for The Occasions Group. We have spotted Christine working in the plant getting hands-on training on AFI's processes. One of her job descriptions is to develop and send a quarterly newsletter to our partners in the coating business. Tom Odean will continue to be an integral part of our AFI sales team. When Christine is not at AFI, she and Kevin, her husband of thirty-four years, enjoy their 7 acre country home 20 minutes from Mankato.

They enjoy watching deer, pheasant, turkey, and oh yes, babysitting one of their six grandchildren.

Chrissy Sather, office support. Her bright smiling face always makes us wonder what she has been up to. (Just kidding!) Chrissy has caught on quickly to AFI's software programs and procedures. Chrissy has an A.A.S. Degree—Legal Secretary. Chrissy's family consists of a special friend, Bill (who by the way works at AFI too. They occasionally take breaks together.) and two sons, Gabe, age 8 and Willy, age 6. Chrissy



also has her own business,

Topshelf Karaoke. She is always looking for new voices at her weekend gigs. She has already turned us all down flat...wonder why?????

Check out our new updated website at www.associatedfinishing.com
We welcome requests for quotes. Please e-mail them to: quotes@associatedfinishing.com
or fax them to Associated Finishing, Inc. (507) 345-5828



WE HAVE SPRUNG INTO WAYS TO IMPROVE!



AFI is still following the Lean Manufacturing concept. We have also added Kaizen events throughout the plant. AFI has been able to get the entire plant involved. Every employee is encouraged to share an idea that will help improve our production or just make their jobs easier. We began this project in April of 2007. Each month those who participate in a Kaizen are entered in a drawing and one winner is selected. Kathy, our April winner (top left), won a most sought after AFI shirt. Thunder (bottom left), our May winner, won a \$20.00 gas card. Kaizen's will help improve how we do business day to day!

Watch for our fall newsletter and upcoming winners at AFI!!!!

Everything you wanted to know about AFI's employees and more!!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

One of our employees, Evelyn Adams, has been nominated for the 2007 Modern Woodmen Fraternalist of the Year award!

Evelyn has been a volunteer for 18 years with this organization. We are proud of Evelyn and applaud her dedicated spirit.

Good Luck Evelyn!



TURKEY ANYONE?

Chuck Klammer shot this trophy turkey early this spring. Dip and Hip found this picture in our files. We all hope Chuck will smoke the turkey and bring it into work for all to sample.

Hip says he used our marketing motto, "One call gets it all"



Join Strip, Dip and Hip and congratulate the following Graduates from AFI

Natalie Schreyer-Immanuel Lutheran High School

Keely Kirby - Mankato East High School

Max Anderson - Mankato East High School

Alison Hansen - MSU- Alison was selected as a speaker for her class!

Congrats to Terry McMichael and Sarah Olson on the birth of their son Ryder James McMichael. He weighed 7 lbs 1 oz - Born 6-6-07



Strip, Dip and Hip wish you all a safe and wonderful summer. Spend some time with your family and friends. Display **RED**, White and **BLUE** and show how proud we are to live in a free country. Daily we take for granted all the freedoms and choices we are able to make without being afraid of harassment. Please take time to pray for our soldiers currently serving and those who have served our country. Many have given their lives for our freedom.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!