

Answers: D, A, B, C



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Associated Addition

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Spring 2016

Expanding the Fleet



AFI has done it again! We have added another truck to our fleet making a total of four trucks for our customers' convenience. We now run a fleet of three straight trucks and one tractor/trailer. These trucks make daily runs to the Minneapolis–St. Paul metro area and other routes around Minnesota for customer pick-up and delivery. AFI feels that this free trucking service is essential to connect with our customers and the value of this service takes care of many of the headaches involved with logistics. It's simple: contact our shipping department shipping@associatedfinishing.com and they will do the rest.

AFI opted for another straight truck because of its driver flexibility. This gives AFI the ability to change with our customers' needs. The truck also has new and improved graphics on it. The AFI cartoon characters are still alive and well, but we rearranged a few other items to better reflect our business. Although this new truck might not go to the Twin Cities everyday, it will create more space on the trucks that do make those trips. That means a better chance that your parts can be picked up and delivered on the day that you requested.

Investing in Productivity

AFI has recently added automatic powder guns to its powder line at the Rock Street location. This investment promotes our mission to continually improve and grow the business. The automatic powder guns are necessary to increase production while decreasing the reliance on labor to paint parts. This saved labor will be shifted to other important tasks that will increase our efficiency.

In the past, AFI has chosen to limit the use of automatic guns because we felt it would hamper our flexibility. That flexibility is a strength of AFI and we strive to be able to respond quicker to our customers' needs each year. Recently, because of our improved color groupings and production planning, we have found ways to successfully implement automatic powder guns into our facilities and stream line the process of using them. This investment has resulted in increased production and is a positive step in our on-going battle against lead times.

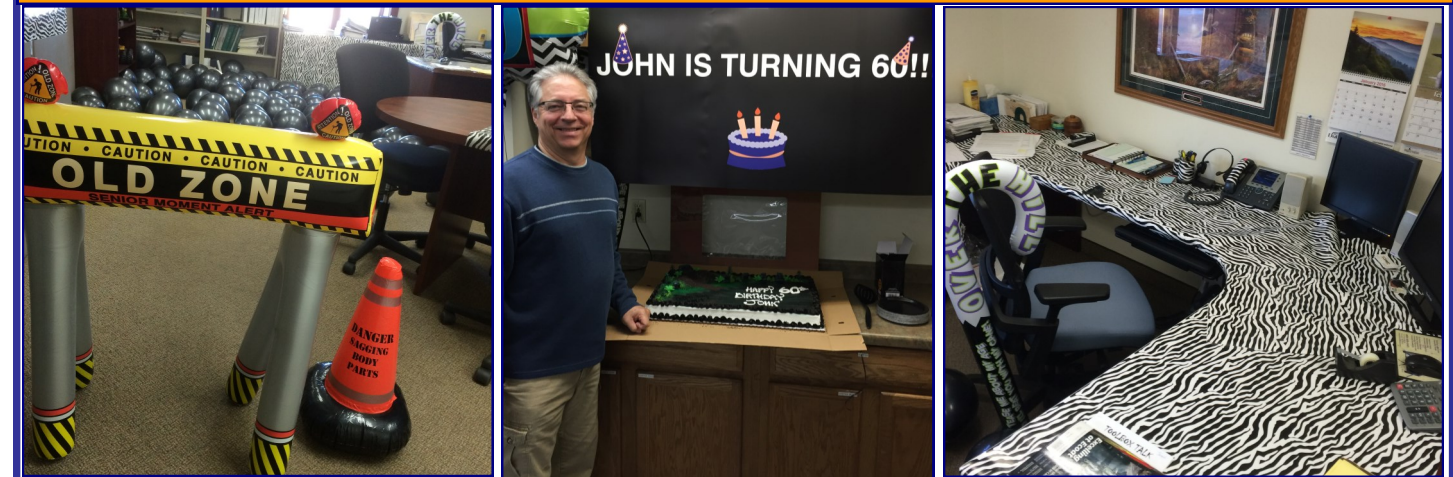


AFI Trivia!!

- At AFI the keyword is "Growth". How many employees has AFI grown to in the last year?
A. 100 B. 50 C. 110 D. 85
- The most common way to track quality results is the rejected parts in PPM. What was AFI's PPM in the first quarter of 2016?
A. 2,938 B. 5,177 C. 21,999 D. 25,256
- Who is the longest tenured person employed at AFI?
A. Scott Niss— Estimating B. Ted Schreyer— President C. Shari Small— Data Entry
- How many of the four conveyor paint lines at AFI are interchangeable between powder and liquid?
A. 4 B. 2 C. 3 D. 1 (Answers on back page)



John Turns 60!



On February 14th, our Vice President and co-owner, John Kapsner, celebrated his 60th birthday. For his birthday, he received a cake and an office makeover courtesy of the management team. The makeover came complete with caution signs, dozens of balloons covering his floor, and some zebra print décor. His birthday was topped off with his own personal red velvet ice cream cake provided by Alan and Becky Baer. We hope you had a wonderful birthday John!

Recognition for a Young Leader



(left: Becca Kent— MDHA Chapter Coordinator, middle: Tyler Niss, right: Denis Quarberg— MDHA State President)

Congratulations to Tyler Niss for receiving the Youth Leadership Award at the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association banquet. Tyler was recognized for going above and beyond for his local chapter. Tyler is a regular volunteer at his chapter events such as the Fall Banquet and raffle sales. Tyler is a junior at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School and works part-time at Associated Finishing. He is also the son of estimator Scott Niss.

