

IPI'S INSIDE INSIGHTS

A MONTHLY INTERNAL NEWS SOURCE



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IN THIS ISSUE:

01 MANAGER'S MESSAGE
Kick things off with some words from General Manager Clint Schmidt

02 EMPLOYEE UPDATES
From retirements to a new hire, check out these IPI staff updates

03 NEW: IPI STAFF SPOTLIGHT
In this new segment, we'll be recognizing a staff member each month

04 YEARS OF SERVICE COINS
See who received their new YOS coins during Bob's recent trip to ASP

05 LEAN CORNER
Read about a continuous improvement WIN out of ASP Sign!

06 GLOBAL UPDATES
Keep up with what's going on in the world of Global

07 IPI MARKETING - OCTOBER
Stay informed on the marketing efforts coming down the pipeline in October

08 NEW HFI BUILDING
See photos of the brand new home building structure at the HFI site

01

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Clint Schmidt | General Operations Manager



These are the four Goals associated with our 2026-2029 Strategic Plan. I thought I would briefly discuss one of the operational objectives that will be initiated in January 2027.

GOAL 1: To develop leaders and problem solvers

- Our staff - Provide increased options for training to expand knowledge of shop operations and develop them as leaders so they become trainers in their shops
- Our I/Is - Provide training and work opportunities to better prepare I/Is for a safe and productive life upon release and reentry into society

GOAL 2: To promote a culture of communication and cooperation

- Improve communication throughout IPI with staff and I/Is while building relationships with all of our stakeholders

GOAL 3: To achieve and exceed financial goals

- Everyone from senior management to I/Is should understand how their job impacts IPI's financial success

GOAL 4: To develop new opportunities for growth in traditional and private industries

- Continuously developing new programs, products, services, and markets for growth in traditional industries and PIE

IPI will be installing training computers in most of the shops throughout IPI. These training computers will be utilized in a couple of ways:

1. Terminals for eLearning
2. Sandbox environment for Global training for staff and associates

These computers will not take the place of the in-person training that our ERP Specialist already provides. These computers will be an additional resource for our staff and associates to utilize. I am sure that as we progress, we will find other uses to maximize our investment.

02

EMPLOYEE UPDATES



This month, two staff members with a combined 18 years of service officially retired from their positions. **Ronnie Beemer**, who served as IPI's warehouse supervisor, retired on 9/1 after 7 years with the organization. **Mike Philby**, supervisor at the Central Canteen in Newton announced that he will be retiring on 9/30 after 11 years of service.

We'd like to congratulate both of them on their retirement and wish them all the best in their next chapters!



We'd like to welcome **Rob Doe** to the IPI team as he begins his new Sales role with the commercial team! Filling in Kevin Peterson's vacant position, Rob will be working in tandem with Karen Donahue to meet with and serve our customers across the state in all of our markets. Rob joins the team with over 30 years of experience in the sign, graphic and wide format printing industries. He has a wife and two sons, all ISU graduates, and enjoys golfing, reading, grilling and cheering for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Congratulations to **Lucas Timpe** on receiving his certificate for 10 years of service! Lucas supervises IPI's braille operation at Anamosa, where transcription services and braille materials are provided to customers across the state. He is truly an invaluable asset to the program, and we thank him for all of the great work he has done over the past 10 years!

Thank you for your service, Lucas!



IPI Staff Work Anniversaries - October 2026

(Note: Each date marks an individual's State of Iowa start date)

OCT 1	James Johnson - 12 Years	OCT 11	Todd Givens - 24 Years
OCT 2	Clint Schmidt - 31 Years	OCT 14	James Pinegar - 23 Years
OCT 2	Rod Kramer - 9 Years	OCT 21	Terry Brownell - 21 Years
OCT 4	Jerry Manning - 30 Years	OCT 23	Garrett Landuyt - 11 Years
OCT 6	Barb SniderLucht - 1 Year	OCT 30	Nick Simonson - 14 Years

IPI I/I Work Anniversaries - October 2026

OCT 20	AGA I/I Ware - 44 Years	OCT 15	ASI I/I McCurdy - 11 Years
OCT 25	AHL I/I Finch - 17 Years	OCT 15	ASI I/I Pulido - 19 Years
OCT 9	ALP I/I Arment - 35 Years	OCT 16	ASI I/I August - 20 Years
OCT 23	ALP I/I Holloway - 23 Years	OCT 7	FFR I/I McGee - 2 Years



FTX I/I Chubick - 8 Years



MTX I/I Williams - 2 Years



FTX I/I Sellers - 8 Years



MTX I/I Myers - 3 Years



FTX I/I Price - 5 Years



MTX I/I Malloy - 2 Years



MTX I/I Guzman - 2 Years



MTX I/I Smith - 1 Year



IPI STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Bob Fairfax | IPI Director



Starting in this issue of the newsletter, I'd like to begin highlighting one of our IPI staff and the great work that they do each month. This month I'd like to highlight Jamey Klostermann at the IPI Warehouse.

Jamie started his career with the State of Iowa in May of 1999 as Correctional Officer at Anamosa State Penitentiary. A little over 8 years later, he joined the IPI team as a technician in IPI's sign division. In 2011, Jamey transferred to the IPI Warehouse located right outside of the prison, which serves as our organization's primary shipping hub. Five years into his new role at the Warehouse, he moved up to the Senior Technician position where he is today, overseeing all of the Warehouse operations.



I wanted to highlight Jamey in this segment not only for his nearly two decades of dedicated service to IPI, but for another reason as well. Jamey is also the first IPI staff to receive our new Years of Service coins! Thank you for all you've done and continue to do for our organization, Jamey!

04 YEARS OF SERVICE COINS

Bob Fairfax | IPI Director



One thing I touched on in the recent EEG video that was sent out was our brand new years of service coins. During one of my recent trips to Anamosa, I came around to the shops to personally hand out the first batch of these coins to staff for their nickel anniversaries.

These special coins serve to commemorate every five anniversary that an individual has had with the State of Iowa. Pictured to the right is one photo I took with Ann Noska and Mike Lynch, who both have over 30 years of service under their respective belts. It was a very special opportunity to be able to meet with them individually and personally thank them for their continuous dedication to our mission.



I plan to come around to each location in the near future to hand out more coins to those IPI staff who have earned them. I hope you are looking forward to this new milestone achievement recognition effort we're making. Thanks for all you do!



LEAN CORNER

Sara Schnotala | ERP Specialist



Continuous Improvement WIN!

In December 2025, the Anamosa Sign Shop submitted a Continuous Improvement (CI) idea aimed at refining how sales orders/work orders are tracked as they move through production. Their original database, the “Log Book,” served the shop well by centralizing order details, notes and file attachments. However, as changes occurred, the system presented challenges including security risks, update delays and unnecessary double data entry.

To preserve the functionality the team relied on while eliminating these inefficiencies, I collaborated closely with the Sign Shop to analyze their workflow and develop a modern solution. Together, we designed and built a customized dashboard housed within Global. Following several months of development, shop testing and collaboration, the new Global dashboard is officially live and in daily use. The upgrade has significantly reduced manual data entry, improved system security and updates and provided real-time visibility across shop operations. A HUGE “thank you” to ASI Clerk Don Pickett for the CI submission and all the work put into making this happen!

As part of IPI’s strategic plan, every shop is tasked with identifying at least one Continuous Improvement (CI) project by the end of FY29. Wondering how a process improvement event actually works? Here is a quick breakdown of what to expect:

- **Identify the Problem:** Submit your initial idea using our intake form and send it directly to the ERP Specialist/CQI. The form is located on the [IPIStandards Drive\Lean\Lean Events\Identifying the Problem Template](#)
- **Determine the Event Type:** The ERP Specialist/CQI review the submission to match the issue with the right event format
- **Prep & Pre-Work (6 Weeks Prior):** Two dedicated facilitators are assigned to partner with your event sponsor. Pre-work kicks off about six weeks before the main event

- **The Event (1-5 Days):** Depending on the scope and type of event, the team collaborates in person for one to five days to build solutions
- **Implementation (Up to 1 Year):** The team leaves the event with a clear action plan, and rollout and monitoring continue for up to a year post-event

Have an idea in mind for your shop? Reach out to your supervisor or grab the intake form to get the ball rolling!



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Global Gather & Grow Webinar: GSS Screen Customization

Tuesday, October 27th @ 9:00-9:30am

Time Zone: America/Chicago

Google Meet Joining Info:

Video Call Link:

Or dial: (US) +1 347-569-5114 PIN: 812 802 934#



Global Friday Features

October 2nd - Work Orders

October 9th - Purchasing & Receiving

October 16th - SFDC/Timeclock & Balancing

October 23rd - Issue Material - WIP to FG

October 30th - Shipping

[Sign Up Here:](#)

Global ERP Bootcamp - Live Customers - Operations

- Day 1: Menu Overview, System Flow, Inventory, Document Control, Workcenter Setup/Costing, Estimating, Quoting, Order Entry, Work Orders & Advanced Planning and Scheduling
- Day 2: Purchasing, Issuing Material, Labor Collection/Balancing, Quality, Shipping & CRM

[Sign Up Here:](#)

Global ERP Bootcamp - Live Customers - Financials

This virtual ERP Bootcamp covers General Ledger, Inventory Accounting, Accounts Receivable, Sales Orders, Accounts Payable, Purchasing, Sales Analysis Reports & Financial Statements.

[Sign Up Here:](#)

OTHER TRAINING RESOURCES

Did you know?

NIC has a selection of books that you can borrow. The Coffee Bean is my current read. Here's a small sampling of what you can expect:

- Leaders Eat Last
- Emotional Intelligence 2.0
- The Power of Habit
- Crucial Conversations
- The Five Dysfunctions of a Team

Enabling Change and Empowering Changemakers - Free Webinar

October 15th, 2026 @ 8:30-9:30am CST

Don't Gamble With Your Culture

October 6th, 2026 @ 12:00-1:00pm CST



IPI MARKETING UPDATES

Chris Becker | Marketing Specialist



This past month, the heat began turning up on trade show season, and October is no different! IPI representatives will be attending a grand total of five trade shows and networking events this upcoming month, which will provide us with great opportunities to meet with our customers, create leads, and build relationships.

Another reminder that the annual IPI All Staff Conference is on **October 15th!** I will be sending out another reminder with further important details early next week.

Here's everything that's coming down the pipeline for September:

Marketing Emails:

- Branded Products - State Agencies
- Blackinton/Blaur/Flying Cross Products - City Police



Tradeshows:

- Iowa State Police Conference - 10/13
- Midwest Mfg. & Networking Competimates - 10/13
- ICA Fall Conference - 10/21-10/22
- IMFOA Fall Conference - 10/21
- ISU Procurement Services Supplier Show - 10/27



Special Events:

- IPI All Staff Conference - 10/15



08

NEW HFI BUILDING



If you've been out to visit the Homes for Iowa build site within the past year or so, you may have noticed the new addition under construction at the edge of the lot. After a long wait, the new home building hangar is finally complete!

Iowa Prison Industries and Homes for Iowa received a grant for this structure, which will allow the crew to work on multiple houses at once indoors during the winter months when harsh outdoor conditions previously made it hazardous or impossible to do so.

With this new hangar, we expect our production capacity on these homes to increase, allowing us to construct and deliver more high-quality, affordable homes to buyers across the state of Iowa!

THANKS FOR READING!

Please direct any newsletter ideas, employee recognitions, new developments, and Star Shop of the Month requests to chris.becker@iowa.gov