All in all, it was a good year.

But there were, admittedly, a few bumps.

At year’s end the AWCI story for 1980-81 was a near-record convention, a move into its own headquarters building, the establishment of a new industry library, and the rise of the association into a position of leadership and prominence in national political activity.

These were the major accomplishments of the association.

The bumps? For three years since the consolidation of the former plastering and drywall organizations AWCI has been able to plow goodly amounts of money into its reserves. This past year that splendid record slid sideways as the association broke even (when the final accounting is in perhaps there may be as much as $10,000 for surplus) after elimination of depreciation.

The missing extra surplus primarily could be traced to over optimistic expectations in the association magazine’s net income, and also in budgeting for a larger convention attendance than was actually realized.

During the past year the magazine income slid back along with some scheduling problems. It is now back on a firm publishing track with the editing controls back in the hands of Jerry Wykoff now returned to AWCI following an absence of 18 months.

As for the convention, with 154 booths, it was the largest exposition in the industry’s history and contractor attendance continued its climb to new, higher numbers. Unfortunately, there was a fall-off in total manufacturer attendance, bringing the gross registration to a figure below the number of persons attending the Phoenix convention the year before.

Those two lower than anticipated income producers added up to a financial pinch. But they did not keep the association from having a banner year.

In labor relations, for example, the association under the leadership of President Ray Boyd, of Dallas, Texas, wrapped up years of negotiating work by concluding three signed labor agreements.

The agreements—all continuations of the program of national agreements which started as long ago as 1964—were with the Carpenters, the Plasterers and the Laborers. All three agreements renewed the grievance procedures which allow work to continue while the machinery for resolving disputes is working.

The Carpenters agreement (which dates back to 1972) and the Plasterers’ agreement (which dates back to 1974) also contain basic ratios for moving key personnel to jobs outside a contractors normal working jurisdiction.

Also in the labor relations, AWCI now serves on three national apprenticeship boards, and has representation on a fourth—the Carpenters apprenticeship board.

Convention Record

While the slippage in the number of manufacturer representatives at the Washington, DC convention has already been noted, there were still some 1,250 men, women, and guests at the event.


During the convention, AWCI dedicated its new headquarters building. The 27,000 square feet three-story structure is located only blocks from the Capitol Building and represents the finalization of a long cherished hope that the association have its own permanent home. The association staff had actually moved into the building the previous month, occupying the 7,500 square feet third floor.

One of the most successful construction industry political coalitions in the capital’s history came about under AWCI President Ray Boyd’s and Joe Baker’s influence. Working together Boyd and Baker pulled representatives of all the major construction organizations in the country into a single hard working group which fought to get the Reagan economic program passed through both
One of the most successful construction industry political coalitions in the capital’s history came about under AWCI President Ray Boyd’s and Joe Baker’s influence.

houses of Congress.

The coalition was so successful that Reagan called coalition members together at the White House to thank them for their efforts. By that time, of course, Vern Raymer, of Delta Drywall, Denver, Co., was the AWCI President but the expression of thanks was appropriate because Raymer had backed Boyd’s strong effort all the way.

In keeping with its determination to respond to member needs, the association went ahead on setting up two new national committees. These were the dealers and suppliers committee and the residential committee.

The dealers and suppliers national committee has already held two organizational meetings, and a comprehensive survey is being finished so that it can be mailed to industry dealers and suppliers before the year’s end.

As for the residential committee, it was felt that contractors who specialize in single homes and residential repair work would respond to the association program providing specialized services in this area. Under the chairmanship of Baltimore contractor Charlie Barnes, AWCI representatives met during the Washington, DC convention and laid the plans for further effort by a national residential committee.

That the association’s responsiveness to membership needs is effective can be seen in the highly successful new membership results posted during the past business year. This includes a net membership gain of 135, bringing the total membership of AWCI to more than 850. That’s the highest in the history of the wall and ceiling industry.

Technical Expansion . . .

Under Technical Director Gene Erwin, the association’s technical program enjoyed another expansion, as AWCI proceeds with its most
This (new membership) includes a net membership gain of 135, bringing the total membership of AWCI to more than 850 . . . highest in the history of the wall and ceiling industry.

Ambitious technical program expansion.

With the success and responsiveness of members to fund the AWCI Foundation, the wall and ceiling industry's new technical library in Washington is in place. Books and other documents are beginning to fill the shelves in the John Hampshire Library in the ACWI headquarters building and interviews have been completed for a professional librarian.

Investigation is continuing with regard to new technical equipment for the library such as audio-visual devices, microfilming and micro readers.

AWCI also was prominent in its activities monitoring program for all five model code organizations, ICBO, BOCA, Southern, South Florida, and the organization of states on model codes.

The association expanded its representation on technical committees and technical societies, totalling 11 such organizations. Because asbestos abatement is such an increasing problem, AWCI has stepped up its activities in this area.

Responding to AWCI efforts, contractors worked on developing and conducting two major education seminars on asbestos abatement, one in New Orleans and another in Alberta. Some 82 contractors have already received diplomas, and work continues with the idea perhaps of holding a third seminar, possibly in Minneapolis.

At the same time, preparations went ahead for the National Technical Committee, which already has eight subcommittees, to create Technical Subcommittee No. 9—on Asbestos Abatement.

AWCI also moved into the deflection tests now being conducted at Clemson University under the joint sponsorship of the Brick Institute of America and the Metal Lath/Steel Framing Association.

One of the major moves by the
association last year was the bringing together of the manufacturers who formed the new Exterior Insulation Manufacturers Association. Some controversy exists about the need for this new organization, to be sure, but there is little doubt that some valid fire tests must be conducted on the new exterior panels.

The association’s interest in such testing is to assure the buying public of a valid product and, at the same time, assure contractors that their installations are supported by firm testing criteria.

In other technical projects, AWCI pushed ahead with a new application standard for Portland Cement Plastering, as well as setting up new educational programs in such subject areas as material handling and warehousing, panelization, and performing energy audits.

**New Publication**

With new technical reports, documents, and publications coming into the AWCI inventory to the extent that keeping track was difficult, it was decided to develop a comprehensive publication that listed all the titles.

This was completed last year and in August the mailing was made to all members of the new “AWCI Guide to Wall and Ceiling Publications and Technical Manuals.” Now contractors won’t have to conduct a major research effort to determine if AWCI has a publication on a certain subject.

In the guide are listed general association publications, technical manuals, and specialized publications.

The association’s official monthly publication, *Construction Dimensions Magazine*, is now back on a firm publishing schedule as former AWCI communications staffer Jerry Wykoff has resumed the editing of the magazine.

Starting with the July edition, the magazine began coming out again the first week of the month, and a month later its subscription total was back at 9,500 wall and ceiling contractors—and climbing.

The AWCI *Bulletin* continued its every-third-week schedule, along with plans to merge the *Bulletin* with the tabloid, *News and Views*.

It is expected that a new masthead will be designed and introduced before year’s end.

All in all, the 1980-81 year was a good one. As AWCI Executive Vice President Joe Baker admitted, the income from a couple of key projects were not as high as projected and the plow-into-surplus situations was not the same happy reflex as previous years.

But in services to the wall and ceiling industry, AWCI continued to do the best job for the industry—and to lay the foundation stones for continued expansion.