Pinnacle Award

You might think that Anne J. Daly of P.J. Daly Contracting Limited, Hamilton, Ontario, feels a sudden jolt of déjà vu every time she attends an AWCI convention in Vegas.

You see, in the last several years, AWCI has held two conventions in Las Vegas, Nev., and Daly has been recognized with an award both times. At the 77th Annual Convention, held in 1994, Daly received AWCI's Unsung Hero Award. This year, during AWCI's 83rd Annual Convention, she was honored with AWCI's highest accolade, the Pinnacle Award.

Daly is the first woman and the first Canadian contractor to receive the Pinnacle Award, which has been presented every year since 1982 to the person who most merits the industry's recognition. Pinnacle Award winners are recognized for giving unselfishly of his or her time and energies to benefit AWCI and the industry. Not only are the candidates evaluated on their dedication to the industry, but on their civic and community work and the excellence of their companies.

And Anne Daly is an obvious winner on all accounts.

Her community work includes coordinating a Mass for nursing home residents in the Hamilton area. She has been doing this for more than 30 years.

She also loves animals. Donkeys, exotic birds and a variety of other animals roam her 95-acre farm. But horses are her passion.

The family has owned harness racehorses since the early...
In 1977, "Western Dreamer," owned by two of her sons, was the first horse in 15 years to win harness racing's Triple Crown, finishing first in Ohio's Little Brown Jug, New York's Cane Pace and Pennsylvania's Messenger Stake. Daly never missed a race.

Her dedication to the wall and ceiling industry is as strong as her dedication to her family, friends and community. During her longstanding membership with AWCI, she has served on numerous committees, including the AWCI board of directors. Her company, which has been an AWCI member for 30 years, is also a Lifetime Member of the association.

PJ Daly Contracting Limited, founded in 1953 by Anne and her husband, Patrick, had a modest start. The first office was located off the garage of the family home. Anne ran the office, doing all the bookkeeping and payroll as well as managing other office-related responsibilities, while her husband worked on and/or supervised the projects.

Their sons, Patrick Jr., Dan and Matt, who were interviewed for the videotaped presentation that was shown at the AWCI Awards Brunch, commented that, in the early years, their mother often could be found in the office between meals and after spending time with the children. The boys also served as Anne's bodyguard when she delivered pay to the company's staff—after all, it was all in cash at that time.

But she worked in other areas of the business as well. Matt noted that it was not uncommon to see his mother, late in the evening, "helping our father unload the truck after a long day on the job."

Anne took over running the entire company in 1985, after the death of her husband. She continues to manage with the philosophy of "The Four Cs: Compassion, Caution, Consistency and Concern for accuracy and detail."

As a testament to her way of treating employees like family, it is noteworthy that many of the 350 employees have been with PJ Daly Contracting for several years. Some of the company's employees wanted to play a part in the awards presentation, and they also were videotaped praising "Mrs. Daly," in addition to family members.

Today PJ Daly Contracting Limited is one of the largest commercial interior contractors in Ontario and among the largest in Canada. The company's full-service operation includes interior framing of all types, steel studs, drywall, plastering, acoustic ceilings and wall panels, fireproofing, insulation and stucco systems. Projects since she took the company reins include hospitals, shopping malls, theaters, Terminal III—Toronto International Airport, office complexes and schools.

When she accepted the Pinnacle Award, her thank-you speech was short and to the point: "This is a very emotional moment for me. Thank you all so much. I love you all very much."

And, as evidenced by the hundreds of her cheering, clapping peers in attendance, the industry loves her right back.
AWCI Awards Committee Chairman Stephen Baker presented AWCI’s 2000 Excellence in Construction Safety Award to Performance Contracting, Inc. of North Highlands, Calif.

AWCI’s safety award was created to give national recognition to a contractor member who manages an effective safety program in a given year. More and more owners and specifiers are looking carefully at their contractors, and the perception is that a firm that actively takes steps to control hazards in their operations is also better managed in other areas. The winner of the 2000 safety award was chosen on the basis of injury and health frequency rate data, experience modifier, safety statement and company safety-program information.

This year’s winner knows how to keep a good thing going; Performance Contracting, Inc. also won the award in 1999.

In 1998, Performance Contracting logged more than 4.3 million man-hours and had an experience modification rate of 0.49. Last year, with more than 7.3 million man-hours, the rate was down to 0.48. With the full support of top management, the fundamental ideal of Performance Contracting’s safety program is rooted in a “Target Zero” philosophy.

AWCI Awards Committee Chairman Steve Baker (left) presented the safety award to PCI’s Craig Davis.
WCI's 2000 Excellence in Construction Quality Award honors those AWCI contractor, supplier and manufacturer member companies that have contributed to an outstanding project. It salutes the project as a whole, but also rewards AWCI members for working together. The more AWCI member companies involved in a project, the more points awarded to the project. Points also are awarded for the project's degree of difficulty.

The nominated project may be commercial, residential or
institutional. The size and location of the project does not limit eligibility; square footage is used for points only in relation to the project duration. The winning project is the Southeast Christian Church in Lexington, Ky.

From the massive canopy to the multi-angled design of the Worship Center (9,200 seats), Southeast Christian Church’s size and complexity leaves many people awestruck. This is the largest Christian church in North America.

The Atrium building houses the chapel. It has zig-zagged walls and a stepped, crescent-shaped ceiling. The concave wall at the chapel’s front adds depth and also contributes to the exceptional acoustics.

The Education Wing houses classrooms. This 163,000-square-foot wing has about 15,000 linear feet of interior and perimeter drywall partitions.

In the 82,425-square-foot Fellowship Hall, the emphasis is on sound clarity. This is achieved with a combination of acoustical tiles and drywall on the ceilings.

Highlights include the following:

- Four million square feet of drywall and 500,000 square feet of acoustical tiles were used by the AWCI subcontractor.

- A spoked, coffered and radiused ceiling in the Worship Center combines with numerous angles to provide the best possible acoustics on all three levels.

- The main entrance has a 25,000-square-foot overhang—enough room for 150 cars.

- The entire project required 92 acres of drywall, 7.5 tons of screws, and, if laid end to end, 341 miles of metal studs.

- Atrium: Has a vaulted, 16,000-square-foot ceiling.

Required drywall installers and finishers to work off scaffolding to reach the 46-foot vortex.

- Curved and stepped walls and ceilings in many areas.

- More than 5,000 linear feet of metal stud framing and exterior drywall soffit at the perimeter of the fur connected building.

Grayhawk, LLC of Lexington, Ky., was the AWCI member contractor that nominated the project, and that did much of the work on the church.

The AWCI manufacturer and supplier members who were rewarded for their role in this winning project are as follows:

Celotex Corporation, Tampa, Fla., manufactured the acoustical ceiling tiles used on the Southeast Christian Church Project.

Clark Steel Framing Systems of Middletown, Ohio, made the metal studs that were used on this winning project.

The project’s acoustical ceiling tiles, wallboard and metal studs were supplied by Drywall & Building Supply Co., Inc., Louisville, Ky.

Finally, for the fourth consecutive year, United States Gypsum’s wallboard was used on the winning project.

**Honorable Mention**

If you saw the cover of the January issue of AWCI’s Construction Dimensions, you know that our honorable-mention contractor has a knack for bringing zany fantasy settings to life.

Seuss Landing at Universal Studios’ Islands of Adventure required the AWCI subcontractor to build such structures as the Green Eggs and Ham Café, the Hop on Pop Ice
Cream Shop, the Big Top Buffeteria and many others. One of the company's veteran plastering superintendents said, "This was the toughest job I've done in 30 years."

Keenan, Hopkins, Schmidt & Stowell Contractors, Inc. of Tampa, Fla., was the AWCI contractor who made Dr. Seuss's world a reality in Florida.

Originally estimated and planned using a product produced off-site, the entire project delivery had to be completely reinvented when it was discovered the process wouldn’t fulfill the owner's and subcontractor's vision. The result? KHS&S hand-sculpted more than 115,000 square feet of exteriors using expanded polystyrene foam. They also worked with manufacturers to develop and apply a specially formulated EIFS that met code requirements while enabling more on-site foam shaping.

Highlights include the following:

- More than 115,000 square feet of themed exteriors for eight theme park buildings and structures.
- KHS&S was responsible for engineering the exterior metal framing to ensure the proper fit of the exterior building facades over all the building's components. This engineering was completed in a 3D mode so that each exterior stud and accompanying secondary framing was engineered and dimensioned, resulting in 2,500+ pages of engineering drawings.
- Seamless single forms.
- Few straight or plumb substrates.
- Complete re-engineering required to individual stud level.
- Extensive scaffolding of structures, with few or no straight surfaces.
- EIFS application required extensive training and supervision for quality control.
- Multiple layers of product required to achieve effect and durability.

The AWCI member suppliers and manufacturers that contributed to this project are as follows:

**Armstrong World Industries** of Lancaster, Pa., manufactured the acoustical ceilings.

**Omega Products International, Inc.**, Orange, Calif., was the EIFS manufacturer.

The gypsum drywall sheathing was manufactured by **Georgia-Pacific Gypsum Corporation**, Atlanta, and supplied by **Kobrin Builders Supply, Inc.**, Orlando, Fla.

Kobrin also supplied the metal studs, which were made by **Dietrich Industries** of Wildwood, Fla.
When this magazine reported on the 58th Annual Convention of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries—International in 1975, the article proudly boasted a “whopping” 650 attendees. My how we’ve grown.

There were nearly 3,400 attendees at AWCI’s 83rd Annual Convention, which was held April 29–May 2, 2000, in Las Vegas, Nev. The 160 exhibitors (who occupied 284 10-by-10 booths) were quite pleased because exhibit hall, which was sold out many months in advance, was swarming with traffic during both days of the trade show.

Hailed as a rousing success, the convention and trade show also featured education sessions, committee meetings, a golf tournament, a forum for safety directors, many networking opportunities, social gatherings and tours.

Among the money-making opportunities was the 50–50 Raffle. Half the proceeds are use to benefit the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, and the other half is divided among three winners. This year the raffle raised a total of $28,000. continued on page 48
The grand prize winner was Karla Roberts of M-G-M Supply Company, Englewood, Colo. She went home with $7,000. Each taking home $3,500 were Gregg Miller of Team Panels International, also in Englewood, and Mark Nabity of Grayhawk, LLC in Lexington, Ky.

The FWCI Golf Tournament also had some winners. They are as follows:

Winning the whole tournament with the lowest score was the team of George Blanchard, Kevin Courtney, Wayne Wood from United States Gypsum Company Chicago and Dan Weinstroer with the Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association of Metro St. Louis, MO.

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Other winners are the recipients of the 2000 FWCI scholarships:

- Jason Steven Salisbury, son of Steven Robert Salisbury of Mid-States Construction of Rockford, Ill. Jason is a junior studying engineering at Northern Illinois University.


- Gerald George Bernar Jr., of Crete, Ill., son of Gerald George Bernar of McNulty Brothers Company of Chicago. Gerald will enter Purdue University in the fall to study engineering.

These scholarship winners will receive an initial $500 grant applicable toward tuition costs for the fall 2000 semester. By maintaining an acceptable grade point average and a full-time course schedule, they will automatically receive up to three more identical $500 grants for their next three semesters of study provided they maintain good grades and a good academic standing.

The scholarships are given only to AWCI member (or their dependents) students pursuing a post-high school education in construction management, engineering or architecture.

Finally, it couldn’t have been done without the companies who contributed by sponsoring various items and events at the convention and trade show: Celotex Corporation, Comput-Ability, Inc., DirectBuild.com, Gypsum Association, HEK Platforms & Hoists, Johns Manville, JWA Grabber Construction Products, Lafarge Gypsum, National Gypsum Company, Omega Products International, OSI Sealants, Parexa, Inc., Plastic Components, Premier Drywall Tool Co., Senergy, Inc., Spraytex, Inc., Unimast Incorporated, United States Gypsum Company and Vinyl Corp.