Nearly 2,600 people "ran with the bulls" at the 85th AWCI Expo: Construction Directions, which was held last month in San Antonio, Texas.

The convention's theme, "Running with the Bulls," proved to be an accurate reflection of the convention as thousands of attendees charged through the two-day exposition and attended education seminars and social events.

The exposition featured 176 exhibitors, who occupied 357 10-by-10 booths (vs. 319 booths at the Nashville trade show last year). Many new and innovative products were on display, as well as old favorites.

What follows is a look at what was accomplished by some of AWCI's committees, and on the pages that follow, you'll
see photos that were taken throughout the event.

Members of the Convention Committee agreed, and the board of directors approved, that the AWCI Annual Convention and Trade Show should meet in Las Vegas, Nev., every three years as opposed to every four years, because it is such a popular destination.

Also, future VIP passes to AWCI’s Expo will be fully complimentary. The $25 fee will be charged only to walk-ins.

Members of the Hospitality Committee agreed that at the 2002 Industry Executives’ Conference & Committee Week in
Vail, Colo., the tours will be cut from three to two, and that a spouse/guest brunch will be held in place of the third tour.

The Foundation Executive Committee has named Alfons Knauf as the committee's incoming secretary/treasurer. New and renewing terms were approved for Steve Baker, Anne Daly, Carol Kimmel-Schary, Michael Poellinger, Edmund Ponko and Steve Baker.

The hot topic in the craft-related meetings of
the Union Contractors Council was I-9 documentation for immigrant workers. Completion of Form I-9 is required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for non-U.S. citizens who are hired to work for your company.

Members of the Membership and Chapter Committee learned about the development of new products, such as AWCI's safety software, which was previewed at the Safety Directors Forum held during the convention. AWCI Executive Vice President Steve Etkin told the committee members that the product, which includes OSHA updates, is finished and now just needs packaging; it should be available in May. Etkin said the market value of such a product is between $1,000 and $1,500, but that the AWCI Executive Committee would like to sell it for only $125, as a member benefit.

With the approval of the AWCI board of directors, the EIFS Curriculum and Examination Committee has refined its EIFSsmart Contractor program as follows: In order to gain the distinction as an EIFSsmart contracting company, beginning in July 2003, 10 percent of the company's EIFS employees must have received AWCI's generic EIFS education and be nationally certified. Begin-

ning in July 2004, 20 percent must be certified, and by July 2005, 40 percent must have one of the three categories of certification. Also starting in 2005, the contracting company must have an EIFS-certified foreman on each EIFS job site. This is the scheduled ramp-up of requirements after the initial 2002
The Portland Cement Plaster/Gypsum Plaster/Metal Lath Committee created a task group to review AWCI's Technical Manual 15, "Analysis of Three Coat Portland Cement Plaster," and develop an addendum. Committee members also agreed to draft a letter to the Portland Cement Association requesting a design for an assembly for ceilings consisting of portland cement plaster over framing that is 24 inches on center, and to begin looking for means of funding so the design can be fire rated.

The Gypsum Board Committee approved the creation of a subcommittee that would represent the contractor position to the Drywall Finishing Coun-
cil to develop guidelines for the use of airless spray-applied products to achieve a Level 4 finish.

Members of the Spray-Applied Fire-Resistive Materials Committee reviewed drafts from the SFRM manufacturers outlining their respective recommendations for preventing mold growth on new SFRM. They created a task group to work with these drafts and the input of others to develop a document addressing the fireproofing industry's concerns and recommendations regarding mold growth on SFRM.

Committee members also discussed an article from the American Institute of Architects that promotes the use of the "restrained" classification in estimating SFRM jobs. The Fire Safety Task Group
will develop a document to refute the AIA article.

The committee created a task group to review and develop an addendum to AWCI's "Technical Manual 12-B, Standard Practice for Testing and Inspection of Thin Film Intumescent Fire Resistive Materials," to incorporate recent improvements in these products.

Members of the Specialty & Acoustical Products/Industry Tolerances Committee discussed the pending shift to "hard metric" specifications in federal government contracts and construction. Also, to help limit the wall and ceiling contractor's liability regarding the development of mold in the built environment, the committee will draft a docu-
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AWCI wishes to thank the following sponsors who contributed much to the success of the 85th AWCI Expo: Construction Directions.

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Trimble
ment stating its position on the mold problem.

The Interior & Exterior Steel Framing Committee reviewed AWCI's Curtain Wall Video and agreed that it is still useful. The committee also created a task group to work with Steel Stud Manufacturers Association and other similar organizations. It also created a task group to work with the SSMA to revise or update several documents concerning steel framing that are now obsolete.

The EIFS & Related Products Committee reviewed several existing documents used to evaluate EIFS projects. After some discussion, the committee created a task group to review and revise a checklist for EIFS application to replace an obsolete publication.

AWCI's committees will hold their next meetings in Vail, Colo., Sept. 17–21, 2002, during AWCI's Industry Executives' Conference & Committee Week. AWCI's 86th annual convention and trade show will be March 25–30, 2003, in New Orleans, La.