Pinnacle Award

Gabe Reitter, president of Reitter Wall Systems in Columbus, Ohio, won this year's Pinnacle Award, AWCI's highest honor.

Reitter has supported both AWCI and the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry since his company joined the association in 1975. Among other awards, he was named AWCI's Outstanding Committee Chairman in 1991 for his work during his first year as chairman of the Lifetime Membership Committee, in which he and his committee signed up 14 new Lifetime Members. Then in 1993, he won AWCI's Winning Spirit Award.

Reitter has served on the AWCI board of directors and was AWCI president in 1997. Reitter currently serves as a member on many of AWCI's industry committees and is vice president of the Foundation's board of directors.

In the past he also has served as a committee member, officer and/or board member of the numerous local and national industry groups. Reiter is also active with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Columbus.

Reitter attended Ohio State University but, in a 1993 interview with AWCI's Construction Dimensions, said most of his real education came from the local associations.
Excellence in
Construction Safety Award

California Drywall Co. of San Jose, Calif., is the winner of AWCI's 2003 Excellence in Construction Safety Award.

When it comes to safety, this AWCI contractor has spent a lot to save a lot. The company's overall investment was more than $300,000 annually for safety, yet the savings due to their safety initiatives is $1,000,000 since it began in 1997. By emphasizing safety, California Drywall Co. had 50 of its 70 supervisory staff attended competent person training and two attend OSHA's construction outreach program.

In his first year of reporting to OSHA, the company reported 70 accidents, last year it was only 14. In turn, the Experience Modification Rate has dropped from 1.24 to a 1.03 in 2002. Of the 860,704 man-hours worked, there were only five disabling injuries.

California Drywall believes there are three keys to a successful safety program:

- Safety training at the time of hire.
- Jobsite training as necessary.
- Teamwork among the superintendents, foreman and the jobsite safety officer increases awareness and alertness of all employees.
Excellence in Construction Quality Award

Last year, AWCI's Industry Awards Committee instituted two categories for the Excellence in Construction Quality award, one for AWCI member contractors whose contract for the project is less than $1 million, and the other is for the AWCI member contractors whose contract is more than $1 million. All the nominations this year were in the $1 million-plus category, so there's only one winner for 2003, and that's the Gaylord Palms Resort and Spa.

Gaylord Palms Resort and Spa is a Florida-themed destination resort located on 63 acres in Kissimmee, Fla. It offers 1,406 guest rooms, numerous restaurants, a variety of entertainment venues and a Canyon Ranch Spa.

Gaylord Palms is designed in an old-Florida theme, reflecting the history, culture and classic architecture of the Sun-
shine State—all depicted under separate distinct areas under Gaylord's signature glass-enclosed atrium.

KHS&S Contractors of Orlando, Fla., completed more than 230,000 square feet of the resort's massive nine-story exteriors, more than 48,000 square feet of the Florida themed inte-

riors, and the interior hotel guest room façades, including more than one-half mile of balustrades.

The AWCI contractor's scope of work for the exteriors included everything except the tile roof, windows and dome ceiling. Specifically, KHS&S erected more than 230,000 square feet of scaffolding, completed the approximate 1.1 million linear feet of metal stud framing and applied more than 450,000 square feet of EIFS, a half-mile of exterior balustrade and numerous GFRC/GFRG forms and foam shapes.

On the interiors, the AWCI contractor completed the façades of hotel rooms that overlook the center atrium as well as the atrium's themed environments.

The manufacturers that contributed to this job are Dryvit Systems, Inc., Dietrich Industries, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum Corporation, Treadway Industries, Inc., Unimast Incorporated and USG.

The AWCI members who supplied materials for the project include R.S. Elliott & Associates, Inc., Kobrin Builders Supply and Treadway Industries, Inc.
Reitter Is Double Winner at 86th Annual Convention

Had the annual convention of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries—International been held in Las Vegas instead of New Orleans this year, the more than 2,400 attendees would have probably wanted to shake Gabe Reitter's hand for good luck before hitting the blackjack tables.

Why? Because Reitter just couldn't lose. Not only did he take home the Pinnacle Award, AWCI's most prestigious honor, he also won the Auto Raffle at the final night dinner.

But Reitter did leave some prizes for other people, as you will see as you continue reading this article.

When prizes weren't being handed out, attendees were in education sessions that covered everything from mold to insurance to safety. Or they took advantage of the many local tours or played in the annual golf tournament.

And then there was the trade show, the largest in the industry. The exposition featured 193 exhibitors, who occupied 353 10-by-10 booths (vs. 357 booths at the San Antonio trade show last year). Many new and innovative products were on display, as well as old favorites.

Celebrating 100 Years

Also at the Awards Presentation Brunch, AWCI honored Minuti-Ogle of Oakdale, Minn., for 100 years of excellence in the construction industry. Minuti-Ogle is only one of two companies in the country that can claim a centennial (see the cover story in the March 2003 issue of this magazine).

AWCI wants to hear from other member companies that are
Tool Source Warehouse won the award for best multiple booth.

FRA CO won in the Best Island Booth category.

Also for the second year in a row, the team from Cargotec, Inc. won the award for best truck booth.

Quik Drive USA, Inc. won the award for best 10' by 10' booth.
celebrating milestones such as 50 or more years in business. Members should watch their monthly newsletter, AWCI Members Only, for updates.

Best Booth Winners

For the third year, AWCI awarded the best booths on the trade show floor. Winners are judged by an independent third party who looks for attentiveness of staff, attractiveness of booth and other factors.

This year, the best 10' by 10' booth was awarded to Quik Drive USA, Inc., and Fraco won in the Best Island Booth category. Tool Source Warehouse was the best multiple booth, and Cargotec, Inc. won the best truck booth award.

Foundation Golf Tournament Winners

This year's Foundation Golf Tournament, sponsored by American Gypsum, was held at the Teeth of the Gator course at Eastover Country Club during the AWCI annual convention.

With a score of 59 on the 72-par course, the winning foursome was Keith Jackson of Pro Line Construction Products, Inc. in Phoenix, Dusty Rhodes of USA FrameTech, Round Rock, Texas; Jerry Smith of Baker Drywall Co., Inc. in Cedar Park, Texas; and Nick Zahara of Pro Line Construction Products, Inc. in Phoenix.

Dan Cassidy had the longest drive, and Keith Jackson had the straightest drive. Closest to the pin was Ed McWilliams, and Rusty Plowman had the longest putt.

Foundation Auto & Jewelry Raffles

The raffles raised more than $50,000 for the Foundation's education programs. The new Audi TT was donated JWA/Grabber Construction Products, and the $2,500 diamond bracelet was donated by Richter System GmbH.

R. Gabe Reitter, who won the Pinnacle Award, also won the Auto Raffle. His ticket was among the five that had his raffle ticket drawn from the bowl. The five winning ticket holders each received a key, which may or may not open a locked box that held the key that would start the Audi. Those five also have the option of auctioning off their key and keeping a portion of the proceeds. Reitter's ticket was a winner from the get-go, and he did not auction it off.

The drawing for the bracelet was a straight raffle: one ticket drawn, one winner. And the winner of the bracelet was Charlotte Barrett of South Valley Drywall in Colorado.
Foundation Scholarship Winner

The winner of this year's $10,000 scholarship is Ivan Wilson, son of Leon Wilson of Wilson Construction Systems, Inc. in Hewitt, Texas. He's a junior architecture major at Texas Tech.

Supplier and Manufacturer Members Committee

The following people are approved for membership on AWCI's Supplier and Manufacturer Members committee through 2006: Fire Trak's Duane Becker and Transwest Truck Equipment's John Kounalis.

Kobrin's Building Supply's Chris Murphy is approved for the position of committee secretary for 2003–2004.

Dryvit's Peter Balint was nominated and his name will be brought forward to the AWCI Nominating Committee for consideration as the supplier member representative to serve on the AWCI board beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2007. The Nominating Committee will review this submission when it meets during AWCI's Industry Executives' Conference & Committee Week this September.

Following on the next several pages are photos from AWCI's Expo: Construction Directions, and on page 71 are reports on other industry winners.
We Have a Winner!
Thanks to Our Sponsors

AWCI thanks the following sponsors who contributed much to the success of the 86th AWCI Expo: Construction Directions.

- Aegis Metal Framing, LLC
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- La Habra Stucco
- National Gypsum Company
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- PLS Pacific Laser Systems
- Parex
- Painters and Allied Trades LMCI
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