

The iaWCC's 58th Annual Convention: No. 1 at its Best

It lived up to its advance billing — *and then some.*

Represented as being the No. 1 convention in the industry, the 58th annual convention of the international association of Wall and Ceiling Contractors was that and more for some 650 wall and ceiling contractors, their wives, guests, manufacturers, suppliers, and industry friends who came to visit.

From the first arrival in Hawaii for The Board of Directors meeting at Kuilima through the April 11-16 event at the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel to the finale — the Annual Dinner Dance — the iaWCC demonstrated its ability to conduct a convention and exposition befitting the only fully diversified association in the wall and ceiling industry.

The secret, of course, was that there was something for everybody.



Al J. Rilcca, of St. Clair Shores, Mich., is shown with his wife, Marleine, as he delivers his acceptance speech as the newly elected President of iaWCC. Al will officially begin his duties July 1, 1975.

Spectrum Covered

The business sessions covered virtually the entire spectrum of contracting from finances and

pension law to labor negotiating and motivation. For contractors interested, there were proponents of open shop operations and their counterparts for the union shop.

Sessions were devoted to increasing productivity, developing improved business operations, increasing sales, reducing costs, collecting, and converting from the bid market to the negotiated sales market.

The guarantee of 23 cost saving, money making ideas for every contractor attending was met and then some. In one session alone, contractors were given a list of 44 such ideas.

Explained iaWCC's Joe M. Baker — whose new title is Executive Vice President — and who orchestrated the iaWCC convention, "We thought we would live up to our promises . . . A. T. S."

And Then Some. That's what the big mystery of the 58th annual convention was all about. It was officially revealed at a special A. T. S. Breakfast in honor of the iaWCC members who had contributed something extra to the association.

But by revealing time everyone attending recognized that something extra was being offered.

There were special features in the exhibit hall such as caricaturists, handwriting analysts, games, and prizes — all designed to keep

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Awards Presented To The Outstanding

The highest award that the iaWCC can bestow—the Venzie Award—went to the late Charles F. Clay, for three decades the editor-publisher of the official iaWCC magazine.

On hand at the convention to receive the award was his widow, Mrs. Margaret Clay, of Seattle, Wash., who also thanked iaWCC members for their creation and support of the college scholarship fund set up in her husband's name.

During the convention, Past President Frank Krafft made a number of awards for "Outstanding" contributions. The award recipients included:

Unsung Hero Award — Jim and John Bolton, Baton Rouge, La.

Outstanding Industry Employee Award — Clint Fladland, St. Paul, Minn.

Outstanding Committee Chairman Award — J. Munroe McNulty, Chicago, Ill.

Outstanding Regional Chairman Award — Joseph Feldner,

Chicago, Ill.

Outstanding Young Member Award — Mike Boyd, Garland, Texas.

Outstanding Associate Member Award — National Gypsum Company (award accepted by Mr. Charles Harless).

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In a special presentation during the final night's Annual Dinner, Paul Stark, of the United States Gypsum Company, presented President E.M. Ratliff with his Past President's portrait.

Lloyd F. Martin, of Syracuse, N.Y., was the winner of the annual Essick Mixer drawing.

The drawings among those who made advance registrations to 1976 London convention saw Richard Duggan, of Allentown, Pa., win the free registration; Joe Baxt, Texas, won the free room at the convention hotel, the Grosvenor House, and Harry J. Verneti, of Rockford, Ill., won the \$500 bond.



Scenes From The

activity among the exhibit booths at high pitch.

The Youth Program, which was centered around water activities, proved popular enough that adults were even signing up.

The dinner parties and receptions played to overflowing crowds in many instances. For the Women's Hospitality Center and Program there were fashion shows, quilting and lei making instructions, and, of course, lessons in hula dancing. As a matter of fact, the women's program was so extensive that it required a 36-page booklet.

All this — and plenty of time and opportunity to enjoy the sun and fun of Hawaii with tours throughout the Island.

At the end of it all, some 40 contractors departed for a reconvened meeting in Tokyo while many others scheduled trips to the outer islands.

No. 1 Begins

The convention got underway with an Early Bird Party on Friday, April 11, and the next day there came the first indication that the 1975 convention would be different. With iaWCC President E. M. "Bus" Ratliff presiding, the opening general session lasted a mere 15 minutes—and then all were told to "hit the beach" until that evening's President's Reception, attended by more than 500, on the front lawn of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

A special Roman Catholic Mass followed by a Fellowship Program started off Sunday's activities which focused around the exposition.

Monday's general session highlighted talks by Michael Callas, immediate past president of ABC,

on the merit shop movement, and by Robert Georgine, AFL-CIO Building Trades head, on the union shop.

Georgine and Callas also presided at two of the five special idea exchange sessions on Monday, along with iaWCC Legal Counsel Mac Stokes, who presented a "quickie" course on negotiating; Rock Andrews, who outlined new ideas for improving productivity, and Donald Gregg, who listed responsibilities of trustees under the new pension reform act.

The Tuesday business program emphasized "Reflections on Money," featuring talks by Mac Stokes on OSHA and the American Subcontractors Association's efforts to eliminate retentions, by John W. Johnson, American Collectors Association President, on ways to collect money, and by August Hansch, Financial Profiles President, on keeping the money you make.

Business and management was the theme of the Wednesday meetings and was kicked off with an absorbing motion picture, "You Pack Your Own Chute," followed by a talk by Dr. Eden Ryl, nationally known sales trainer who was the subject of the movie.

Five iaWCC contractors also discussed how they said, "Goodbye Bids, Hello Sales." The contractors were Bob Whittle, of Niehaus Interiors, St. Louis, Mo.; Harry Verneti, of Mid-States Construction Systems, Rockford, Ill.; Burt Fisher, of Davis Acoustical Corp., Troy, N.Y.; John Hampshire, of John H. Hampshire, Inc., Baltimore, Md., and Jack Hinshaw, of Allied Construction Services, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa.

Annual Business Meeting Approves Fourteen Actions

Seven resolutions and the same number of amendments to the Bylaws of the iaWCC were approved at the annual meeting in Hawaii.

The resolutions submitted by the Resolutions Committee under the chairmanship of Robert L. Whittle, of St. Louis, and which were approved resolved that—

LONDON '76 OFF AND RUNNING 23 Booths, 186 Pre-Registrants Signed Up in Honolulu

The iaWCC Convention Committee in Honolulu, with assistance from Richard Lamdin, Sales Manager, Grosvenor House Hotel; Barry Newman, London Convention Bureau; and British Airways, pre-registered a record 186 persons for next year's London meeting. In addition, over one-third of next year's exhibit booths—23 in all—were rented before the Honolulu Convention concluded.



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—Past President Frank Krafft be given a standing ovation in appreciation of his efforts to effect the merger between iaWCC and the Gypsum Drywall Contractors International

—the iaWCC support the use of automatic taping tools in the drywall industry

—the iaWCC urge its members to support the retention program of the American Subcontractors Association

—iaWCC urge its members to affiliate with existing regional bargaining units, and support groups forming such units

—the iaWCC Labor Liaison Committee meet with International Union representatives to establish contract language requiring the union to provide properly qualified people for the specific work to which they will be assigned, with contractor privileges of rejecting non-

qualified mechanics

—the iaWCC give its full support to General Counsel McNeill Stokes in his judicial attacks on OSHA's constitutionality, and urge members to do likewise

—the Bylaws Committee draft an amendment adding a new class of membership for any member who retires after a minimum of 10 years of membership so as to remain a "social" or "inactive" member at a lower dues rate than active membership.

The amendments to the iaWCC Bylaws that were approved under the direction of chairman Jim Siciliano of Pittsburgh involved-

—the enlargement upon the stated objectives of the Association

—granting authority to the Board of Directors in changing, if necessary, the location of the head-

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New Officers Elected by iaWCC

Al J. Ricca, of the Service Art Company, St. Clair Shores, Mich., will begin his new duties July 1, 1975, as President of the international association of Wall and Ceiling Contractors.

He was elected to the association's No. 1 elective post at the iaWCC's annual meeting, succeeding E.M. Ratliff, of Los Angeles, who will remain on the Executive Committee in his capacity as Immediate Past President.

Other new officers elected for the coming year include E.F. Brady, San Diego, Calif., secretary, and Richard M. Connor, of Nashua, N.H., as treasurer. Rounding out the slate of current iaWCC officers are Donald S. Chambers, of Mansfield, Ohio, second vice president, and Vito J. Arsena, Cleveland, Ohio, first vice president.

The new officers were elected to the Executive Committee this

year as a result of the resignation of Richard C. Cronn, of Portland, Ore., who resigned from his post. He had been second vice president.

Five members of the iaWCC Board of Directors were also elected to three-year terms beginning in 1975. They include: Donald Little, of Toronto, Great Lakes Conference; James A. Doll, Louisville, Ky., Southeast Conference; Jack Hinshaw, Des Moines, Ia., Mid-West Conference; Leo C. Oaks, Little Rock, Ark., Southwest Conference, and John S. Bolton, Baton Rouge, La., at-large.

In an earlier action by the Board of Directors Edward Gamboi, of Valley Stream, New York, was appointed as a Director-at-large, replacing Anthony Salvadore, of the Bronx, N.Y. He will serve on the Board for the term ending in 1977.

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quarters offices of iaWCC and to allow the Board to establish branch or subordinate offices

—provisions for the Board, should it be necessary, to submit proposed dues changes to the membership by a mail ballot which would become effective if 20 percent of the membership votes and if two-thirds of those voting approve, and to establish dues for non-resident members at the rate of one-third of active member dues

—changing the relative positions of Treasurer and Secretary so that any incoming Treasurer will first have one year of experience on the Budget Committee prior to becoming Treasurer

—changing the title of the chief staff officer of iaWCC from “Managing Director” to “Executive Vice President”

—the establishment of a Council of Past Presidents to serve as an advisory body to the President, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors

—substitution of the system of electing members of the Continuing Study Council to one in which nominees are submitted to the Board of Directors for approval by the Board rather than by election.

A resolution extending iaWCC Past Presidents’ privileges to any Past President of GDCI or CISCA after the latter has been an active member for three years was tabled.

Also tabled was an amendment proposing an alignment of the existing eight regional conference into a total of six regions.