Conventions bloom like spring flowers

State organizations, promotional bureaus and CISCA staged their annual meetings, expositions to healthy turnouts

The convention season, kicked off with AWCI’s 63rd annual program in Phoenix and arrived with a flurry of activity during the springtime months. In fact, the number of statewide and regional organizations holding the annual conventions was so large, it seemed as though the conventions -- not spring flowers -- were in bloom.

The New Jersey Drywall and Interior Systems Contractors’ Association held its annual dinner meeting in March. Included in AWCI’s representation at the meeting was President Bob Watkins. The New Jersey group honored AWCI Executive Vice President Joe M. Baker, Jr. with the presentation of an antique compass to commemorate his 25 years of service to the association.

Both Watkins and Baker attended two of the other major conventions. The first, staged in Honolulu, Hawaii, was the annual convention of the California Lathing and Plastering Contractors Association. At that event, Sacramento’s Joel McRae was elected to succeed L.A.’s Larry Hoppe. The convention, by the way, was hosted by The Pacific Bureau for Lathing and Plastering.

The other major convention attended by Watkins and Baker was the outstanding annual program of the Texas Lathing and Plastering Contractors’ Association in Dallas. That convention enjoyed ‘double presidential’ status with AWCI, since the then-incoming President Ray Boyd was the Texas convention chairman. The convention was also attended by three Past-Presidents of AWCI, Denver’s Bob Mitchell, Dallas’ Jack Dillard and Houston’s George Brueggeman. The Texas group named El Paso’s Bill Hartshorn to serve as its President during the coming year. Wanda Clevenger -- with assistance from Boyd and Dillard -- will be managing the Texas association during a search for a new executive director to replace John Black, who resigned during the convention.

Off the convention circuit for a week, Baker attended the monthly meeting of the Minnesota Drywall Contractors’ Association, where he shared the platform with Homer Bartles, the Executive Director for the Southern California Drywall Contractors’ Association. The Minnesota group was the subject of a recent feature article in Construction Dimensions.

Continued on page 30
Conventions  Continued

AWCI Executive Director Chris Stinebert was also busy during the convention season. He was in Miami Beach, Fla. to take in the festivities of the annual convention of CISCA, then joined AWCI Co-Past President Jack Craig on the opposite coast of the mainland for the annual convention meeting of the Northwest Drywall Contractors, held in Oregon.

AWCI Editor Jim Van Loozen made a brief visit to the Texas convention, where he interviewed President Ray Boyd for this month’s magazine, then made an extended visit to Spokane, Washington for the annual convention of the Northwest Lath and Plaster Bureau. That meeting included an excellent exhibit and schedule of educational programming.