A library for the industry

A progress report on funding for foundation, AWCI building

John W. Thomson, Jr., chairman of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, has announced that more than half of the funds needed to launch two of the most ambitious projects in AWCI’s recent history have either been pledged or received during the first phase of an extensive fund-raising campaign.

The joint fund-raising program to create the Foundation’s new research and reference library and to complete the renovation of the new AWCI headquarters building commenced with the Phoenix convention. A series of meetings with a group of manufacturers and suppliers was held in Phoenix.

At those meetings, Phil Zinn of Allied Structural Industries became the first industry supplier to participate in both programs. Dan Cota, president of Cota Industries, then announced a significant contribution to the building renovation program, plus a pledge of continuing annual support for the operation of the library. These contributions soon were followed by others.

Mike McCain of McCain Building Supply was a third meeting participant who promptly joined in with a major contribution to both programs.

Thomson has since coordinated a series of manufacturer visits on which he and other contractors from the AWCI membership have accompanied Membership and Public Relations Director Bill Altman. The purpose of the visits is to explain both programs. Thomson said one of the most difficult tasks in the campaign is to explain the library concept.

“There are two unique characteristics about the Foundation’s library,” Thomson said. “The first is that nobody has ever attempted to centrally organize and locate such a wide variety of information about our industry before.”

He added: “The second, and perhaps most significant aspect of the library operation is that all of its material will be available to anyone with a telephone.

“We have already developed plans to hire a full time librarian to take telephone requests and to provide material being sought by the caller. This professional librarian will also be responsible for organizing the information so that requested items can be located quickly.”

Thomson said the accumulation of the volume of material needed to make the library efficient will require an extended period of time. Later, the Foundation will consider scholarship awards, educational programs and research projects in addition to the operation of the library.

To date, more than $27,000 in annual support has
been pledged to stock and operate the library. The goal is $50,000 pledged annually.

These monies will be used exclusively for the stocking and operation of the library. The area housing the library will be built and donated by P. Kenneth Hampshire, president and CEO of John H. Hampshire, Inc. of Baltimore, Md.

Valued at more than $50,000, the library will be named the John H. Hampshire Memorial Library in honor of Ken’s grandfather, who founded the company and who was past president of one of AWCI’s predecessor organizations.

An additional $47,000-plus has been pledged to the building renovation program. The renovation funds will be used to remodel a full floor of AWCI’s building near Capitol Hill. (See related item.)

According to William A. Marek, chairman of the AWCI Building Study Committee, the initial goal of $75,000 for the renovation project will actually equal only about half of the costs for the project. AWCI originally planned to take over only part of the third floor of its building, but the Executive Committee of the association determined in July that AWCI, the Foundation and their activities are expanding so quickly that the full floor will be needed in the very near future. The Executive Committee indicated its preference to proceed with the remodeling of the full floor now, rather than bearing the added expense of future expansions.

Drawings have now been upgraded and the Hampshire Company is expected to begin renovation activity in a very short time.

Thomson and Marek have also reported that these firms have announced their support for the fund-raising efforts: AMICO, Chicago Metallic, ASI, Cota, Dryvit, National Gypsum/Gold Bond, Inryco, Ladd Tool, Milwaukee Tool, Roblin Building Products Standard Dry Wall Products, United States Gypsum, Vaughan Walls.

Fund-raising is continuing, and interested firms should contact Bill Altman at (202) 667-8400.

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**Renovation to start**

Bill Marek, AWCI Building Study Committee chairman, has announced that the renovation work for the AWCI headquarters building will begin this month!

The John H. Hampshire Co. has been selected as contractor for the project. The renovation will climax a two-year program to obtain and renovate an AWCI-owned building.

When completed the new offices will include approximately 13,000 sq. ft. of floor space. Currently, the office is wedged into 7,500 sq. ft. of space.

The new facility will occupy the top of four floors of the AWCI building, which is located at 25K Street and about five blocks from the Capitol. The remaining three floors of the facility are leased as commercial office space, and funds from the leases are used to help finance the purchase of the structure.