Foundation Awarded Charitable Tax Exempt Status

John W. Thomson, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, recently announced that the foundation has been granted a special tax exempt status by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The exemption recognizes the foundation as a non-profit, education organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code. The status allows contributions to the foundation to be treated as charitable donations. The foundation is sponsored by the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries-International (AWCI).

Announcing the development, Thomson pointed out that the exemption clears the way for development of the foundation’s new Research and Reference Library. “The library will be the first major project to be undertaken by the foundation,” he said. “Later, other projects such as seminars, scholarships and individual research will be considered.”

A number of other industries have already developed similar libraries which have proven successful. “There are basically two types of libraries,” said Thomson. “One kind is a collection library and the other is a service library. The service library is characterized by its emphasis upon current, useful information and a rapid method of locating and communicating its material. The foundation will operate a service library!”

“Although the library will be located in Washington, D.C., it will be accessible by telephone from anywhere in the world,” Thomson continued. “A special information request number will be available and we plan to hire a full-time professional librarian to organize the material and respond to the requests for information.”

Thomson described the library project as ambitious and said the library will contain the latest codes, regulations, labor information, technical specifications and product material in addition to an archives section and a great deal of background publications.

AWCI’s Technical Director, Gene Erwin, has 30 years of hands-on experience in the wall and ceiling industry. Gene will supervise the selection and assembly of the material. “I am already accumulating a sizeable amount of material for the library,” he said. “I have stacks of information...”

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Foundation Fund Raising Continues on Schedule

Thomas J. McCartney, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, has announced that more than $35,000 have been pledged or received during the current fund raising campaign for the foundation’s new Research and Reference Library. “We are right on schedule with our fund raising program,” he said. “Although we still have some distance to cover before we reach our goal, I’m very encouraged by these results.”

McCartney said that the receipt of several substantial pledges and checks recently had been a “real shot in the arm” for the campaign. “During the AWCI Committee Week activities, Howard P. Tiemann, President of Tiemann Sales Company, Inc., Dallas, Texas, firm, just during the past week,” he said.

“We have also received a substantial check from Georgia-Pacific Corporation,” continued McCartney, “and with each such donation, we are a step closer to making the library program a success.”

A recent announcement by the Foundation Chairman of the Board, John W. Thompson, Jr., revealed that the Foundation has been recognized as a non-profit, educational organization by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and means that contributions may be deducted either as a normal cost of doing business (such as advertising expenditures) or the same as a charitable donation (like a gift to the United Way Campaign).

The following companies have either pledged or already made donations to the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry and its new service library:

- Alabama Metal Industries Corporation
- Alberta Drywall Supply, Ltd.
- Allied Structural Industries
- Chicago Metallic Corporation
- Church and Clark, Inc.
- Compo Industries, Inc.
- Cota Industries, Inc.
- Dryvit System, Inc.
- The Flintkote Company
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation
- Gold Bond Building Products/Division of National Gypsum Co.
- Inyco, Inc.
- Larsen Products Corporation
- McCain Building Supply
- Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
- Roblin Building Products Systems
- Standard Dry Wall Products
- Tiemann Sales Company, Inc.
- United States Gypsum Company

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Although the foundation has existed for more than two years as a non-profit organization according to the laws of the District of Columbia, the special federal tax exemption application had not been completed. Earlier this year when AWCI hired Bill Altman as its Director of Membership and Public Relations, he was asked to accept additional responsibilities as the foundation’s administrator. This requirement included preparing the special tax exemption application and conducting the foundation’s extensive fund raising program. Altman’s free service to the foundation is one of AWCI’s contributions to help launch the fledgling organization and its ambitious programs.

Commenting on the new tax status, Altman said he is proud of the development and considers it a major achievement. “This is a milestone,” said Altman. “Now the early contributors as well as potential supporters of the foundation and its library will see that we intend to make this a successful organization which is useful and valued for its service to the public and the industry.”

The library is being built and donated to the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry by P. Kenneth Hampshire, President, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of John H. Hampshire, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland. The new facility will be named the John H. Hampshire Memorial Library in honor of Ken’s grandfather who founded his company in 1911.

The library will be co-located with AWCI’s new headquarters at 25 K Street, N.E., in Washington, D.C. Although occupancy is scheduled to begin early next year, the library is not expected to become fully operational for several months.