

# AWCI's 65th Convention

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## Albuquerque Exhibition Well Attended As Association Visits Southwest

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It gets better every year.

And 1982's version of the Annual AWCI Convention and Exhibition—held March 29-April 3 in Albuquerque, New Mexico—was no exception.

"The Sky's The Limit" was a fitting theme for the convention which drew more than 1,300 wall and ceiling contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, spouses and guests—from North America and 17 foreign countries . . . 130 of them from France!

All in all, it was a typical event-filled, fast-paced, excitingly programmed exhibition of the wall and ceiling industry . . . and provided a splendid mixture of entertainment, education, and industry related information.

For six consecutive days the city of

Albuquerque felt the presence of AWCI who took up the convention center and four hotels. From the opening day devoted to committee meetings, to the final finale—the annual dinner-dance—AWCI and Albuquerque were treated to the famous and not-so-famous, the known and the not-so-known.

"This 65th annual convention was a challenge in logistics, people moving, and coordination," said AWCI Executive Vice President Joe M. Baker, Jr., "and we proved it could be done while still contributing to a successful convention.

"The city of Albuquerque—and everyone connected with the city—was simply outstanding in their effort to see this convention come off as well as it did.

"It was this sense of adventure and cooperation that provided our convention with the zest and achievement that we all felt."

The major events, of course, involved the general sessions, topped off by such famous performers as Wayne Valis, special assistant to President Reagan for business liaison; newspaper columnist James Jackson Kilpatrick, a panel member on TV's Agronsky & Company; business executive Mace T. Coleman, president of National Gypsum Company's Gold Bond Building Products Division.

Other outstanding goers included Harry Carter, president of the Carter School of Estimating; William A. Spartin, former deputy personnel director for the White House; Robert D. Vrancken, manager of Sperry-

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## Something For Everyone at AWCI's 65th Annual Convention

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... committee meetings were well attended on the first day ...



... and exhibitors showed up for briefings ...



... where speeches were mercifully short and to the point ...

Unviac Company's image and facility design section; J.N. Christianson, president of Christianson Associates; Thomas E. Daily, past president of the Associated General Contractors; Jay M. Kraker, senior editor of Engineering News-Record Magazine, McNeill Stokes, of Stokes & Shapiro, AWCI's general counsel.

In addition to the above, there were numerous seminars, educational sessions, information swap gatherings, and forums conducted by wall and ceiling industry specialists.

Add to this educational bonanza all of the strictly entertainment functions—the Foundation auction dinner, the new members/first timers breakfast, the La Placita Activity Center and spouse program, “The Great Gatsby” President's Reception, “The Issues & Answers” special forum conducted by AWCI's Regional Vice Presidents; “The Pinnacle of Success” Awards Breakfast, and the dinner-dance—and you get an inkling of the scope and quality of AWCI's 65th convention.

All in all, an AWCI convention has grown so large and complex that it is virtually impossible to cover all of the events. The following pages do attempt to provide a general impression of what has become the hallmark of a growing industry.

## Jim Biddle Elected President of AWCI at Business Meeting

Jim Biddle, President of The Mader Corporation, Buffalo, NY, is the new President of the Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries-International.

He was elected to the association's highest elective office at the annual meeting in Albuquerque. The new president will assume office—as will other members of the AWCI Executive Committee—on July 1, 1982.

The association also named Jimmie U. Crane, President of F.L. Crane & Sons, Inc., of Fulton, Miss., as its new Secretary-Treasurer.

Crane's unanimous election puts him “in the chairs” leading eventually to the office of President of the association.

Other Executive Committee members elected included: First Vice President, Robert L. Whittle, St. Louis, MO; Second Vice President, William A. Marek, Houston, TX; Treasurer, Harry J. Vernetti, Rockford, IL. The current President, Vern Raymer, of Denver, CO, as Past President, John W. Thomson, President Emeritus and Continuing Study Council Chairman-elect Tom McCartney, Amherst, NH, will round out the AWCI Executive Committee.

Board members who were also elected at the annual meeting to begin serving three-year terms include: Mid-Central Conference—Joseph A. Feldner, Chicago, IL; John A. Poellinger, Lacrosse, WI; Mid-Atlantic Conference—Mary Smythe, Alexandria, VA; Stanley Thomas, Pittsburgh, PA; Northeast Conference—Henry Finke, Rochester, NY; Western Conference—Gene Warren, Burlingame, CA; At Large—Jimmy V. Merrell, Santa Ana, CA.

The three new Associate Members elected for the first time to the AWCI Board of Directors are: one-year term—Robert Negwer, Negwer Materials, St. Louis, MO; two-year term—Ed Thompson, Chicago Metallic Corporation, Chicago, IL; three-year term—Fred Griffin, Gold Bond Division, National Gypsum Company, Charlotte, NC.



... and magazine supporters found special mention ...



... some fund raisers also raised some good, clean fun ...



... later, AWCI's WAC/PAC held a highly successful fund raiser ...



... and AWCI's Joe Baker got a special accolade from The White House ...

## AWCI's HONORED AWARDEES For 1980-81

Here are the recipients for AWCI's top annual awards which were presented at The Pinnacle of Success Annual Awards Breakfast at the AWCI convention.

### J.D. McNulty Award

To: Bill C. Carroll, President  
Bill C. Carroll Company  
Albuquerque, NM

### Outstanding Regional Chairman

To: Nelson King, Vice President  
Acusti Engineering Inc.  
Birmingham, AL

### Outstanding Committee Chairman

To: William A. Marek, President  
Marek Brothers Company  
Houston, TX

### Outstanding Associate Member

To: Cota Industries, Inc.  
Des Moines, IA

### Outstanding Young Member

To: P. Kenneth Hampshire,  
Chairman  
Hampshire Industries  
Baltimore, MD

### Outstanding Industry Employee

To: Joseph C. Lavallo, Executive  
Director  
Drywall and Interior Systems  
Contractors Association of  
New Jersey  
Clark, NJ

### "Unsung Heros" Award of Appreciation and Recognition

To: James L. Houser, Product  
Manager  
Genstar Building Materials  
Irving, TX

and: Ray C. Rogers, President  
Rogers Drywall, Inc.  
Rockford, IL

### Honorary Lifetime Membership in AWCI

To: T.J. Vogle, Founder and  
Former President  
Subcon Services, Inc.  
Tulsa, OK

### "Man of the Year"

To: Wayne H. Valis, Special  
Assistant to  
President Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

### AWCI Pinnacle Award

To: Jack Dillard, Partner  
Storbeck, Gregory & Dillard  
Dallas, TX



... some convention goers enjoyed brief chats ...



... while others sat down for good talk and a brief lunch ...



... or simply took a quick rest break amid the activities ...



... many spent hours in the exhibit halls catching up ...



... or taking in an educational seminar ...

## Outstanding Personalities Put Zip Into the Programming



... a nationally famous columnist spoke bluntly ...



... and an industry leader discussed business realities ...



... a veteran contractor told it like it is ...



... a selling contractor explains the techniques ...



... a President and President-Elect get together ...

## AWCI Introduces New Award, Circle of Leadership Group

They are the top men in the wall and ceiling industry.

And—in Albuquerque—Jack Dillard, of Storbeck, Gregory & Dillard, in Dallas, Texas—joined the elite group when he was named the first recipient of the new, coveted “Pinnacle Award.”

The award was presented to Jack in recognition of his dedication, leadership, loyalty and continued support of AWCI. He had served as President of the organization when it was iaWCC.

With this award, he joins the exclusive, new Circle of Leadership which is limited to those key industry leaders who have been given the E.F. Venzie Award and—now—the new Pinnacle Award.

The E.F. Venzie Award, named after the late E.F. Venzie, Philadelphia, had been presented since 1964. It was presented for the last time in 1981 in Washington DC—the 13th person to receive it—and it is being replaced by the new premier award, the Pinnacle Award.

In creating the Pinnacle Award, AWCI’s Awards Committee accepted a recommendation that a perpetual recognition of these key leaders be instituted. Hence, the Circle of Leadership was formed in Albuquerque.

## Foundation Auction Raises \$45,940

Try telling the Wall and Ceiling Foundation directors that a dinner auction doesn’t work.

They’ll lay a number like \$45,940 on you. That’s how much the Great Adventure Auction—in behalf of the Foundation—raised when the auctioneer finally put down his gavel.

The gala event drew a capacity audience in Albuquerque as convention goers bid on the 51 items that had been donated by members and friends of the industry.

“All of the funds raised at the auction will go toward expenses of the Foundation and the Industry library,” promised Sharon Daigle, Foundation Director, “Needless to say, we’re thrilled with the response by the industry to our promotion—and these funds will assure that many of the hoped-for programs can go ahead as planned.”



... and an ex-President honors the President's Man ...



... who responds to an Executive Vice President ...

## Albuquerque Had Its Lighter Moments, Too



... there were moments to discuss serious issues ...



... the industry's best were honored ...



... and Bill Carroll wins the Essick Mixer ...



... and time to relax and talk ...

## Bucholtz Elected Chairman of Association Executives

John Bucholtz, executive manager of the Associated Lathing and Plastering Contractors of Santa Clara Valley (Calif.) and editor of one of the wall and ceiling industry's top technical newsletters, was elected chairman of the Wall and Ceiling Association Executives' Council.

His election took place in Albuquerque. At the same organizational meeting, Ms. Wanda Clevenger, executive administrator of the Texas Lathing and Plastering Contractors Association, was selected as the new vice chairman.

John and Wanda replace Joe Lavalley, executive director of the Drywall and Interior Systems Contractors Association of New Jersey, and Bob Drury, director of the Northwest Lath and Plaster Bureau.

## WAC/PAC Moves Ahead...

Its presence was there . . . and it was felt.

Even the White House's special assistant for business liaison, Wayne Valis, showed up to assist the Wall and Ceiling Industry's Political Action Committee (WAC/PAC).

Wayne participated in the popular "Night of Entertainment" sponsored by WAC/PAC—and surprised everyone with a special award to AWCI Executive Vice President Joe Baker—and the WAC/PAC booth in the exhibit hall did a bustling business with contractors who wanted to help the political chances of their industry.

Valis' presence was strong. He even volunteered to meet privately with the WAC/PAC Board and the give and take and frank talk was one of the highlights of the convention.



... but the lines were reasonably short ...



... a U.S. Senator holds their attention ...



... the buffet lines were tasty ...



... and even hot air was an advantage.

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