AWCI’s 65th Convention

Albuquerque Exhibition Well Attended
As Association Visits Southwest

It gets better every year.
And 1982’s version of the Annual
AWCI Convention and Exhibition—
held March 29-April 3 in Albu-
querque, New Mexico—was no
exception.
“The Sky’s The Limit” was a fit-
ting theme for the convention which
drew more than 1,300 wall and ceil-
ing contractors, manufacturers, sup-
pliers, spouses and guests—from
North America and 17 foreign coun-
tries . . . 130 of them from France!
All in all, it was a typical event-
filled, fast-paced, excitingly pro-
grammed 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 an-
nual dinner-dance—AWCI and Albu-
querque 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 mov-
ing, 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 con-
vention with the zest and achievement
that we all felt.”
The major events, of course, in-
volved the general sessions, topped off
by such famous performers as Wayne
Valis, special assistant to President
Reagan for business liaison; news-
paper columnist James Jackson Kil-
patrick, a panel member on TV’s
Agronsky & Company; business exec-
utive 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-

Something For Everyone at AWCI’s 65th Annual Convention
Unvvia 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, McNeil 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 Breakast, 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.
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
Acousti 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. Lavalle, 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
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 iA/WCC.

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.”
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.


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.
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