Attendees at AWCI’s Academy ‘87 November 19-22, were “some of the best and the brightest individuals in the industry I have ever had the opportunity to be with,” said Vic Arsena, chairman of AWCI’s Academy Council.

Arsena, commenting following the Annual Meeting of the Academy Council, the final program of Academy ‘87, noted that when you combine quality participants, and quality instructors, you get a quality program.

“From the comments we have heard so far, it’s safe to say that the programs were well received,” said Arsena, “But I was especially impressed with the caliber of participants. I believe the success of any program can be gauged by the amount of discussion generated. And this was one discussion generating group.”

More than 100 people attended this year’s Academy, including 14 table top exhibitors.

The educational seminars at Academy ‘87 included a variety of technical and management sessions. One of the most impressive sessions at the conference was “Light Gauge Steel Framing” presented by Pat Ford of Matsen Ford Design Associates, Inc., Pewaukee, Wisconsin, Marty Williams of Incor, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland and Mark Nabity of Panel Tech, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky. In this session the panel discussed a variety of topics dealing with light gauge steel framing including: design consideration, basic engineering principles, and how to effectively use design manuals.
During the session on Supervision, Steve Wilders of Jackson Wilders Group, Inc., Carlsbad, California, addressed many management issues facing wall and ceiling contractors today including: effective employee communication, company and individual goal setting and developing a reward system. “Wilders was familiar with the types of problems we face and was able to offer us workable solutions,” remarked Academy Council member Chris Hawksley of Drywall Acoustics, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky.

“This is one of the best educational programs I’ve ever been to. We brought some of our office personnel and field foremen here and I feel that it has been well worth the time and effort,” said Steve Porter of Interior Builders, Inc. of Dayton, Ohio.

First-time Academy participant Mike Rogers of Rogers Drywall, Inc., Rockford, Illinois said, “I’ve really gotten a lot out of the educational sessions but I think the most beneficial part of this type of program is between classes and at the social events . . . it’s at these functions you get the chance to talk to other people in the industry. You can discuss common problems freely because these people aren’t necessarily your competitors.”

Joe Garvin of Casey Insulation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, walked away from Academy ‘87 with a wealth of knowledge and a 19” color TV given away in a drawing sponsored by TRW Trucking, High Ridge, Missouri.
One of the unique features of Academy is the part industry suppliers play in the program, specifically as table top exhibitors and the presenters in the technical theaters. The table top exhibits allow the contractors in attendance to meet with some of the top industry suppliers on a one-on-one basis, making for a more informal gathering. Complementing the seminars were the lunchtime technical theaters presented by industry suppliers on a variety of technical topics including: “Fireproofing Pumps: Their Care and Feeding”; “An Inside Look at Gyp-Crete”; “the Chemistry of Synthetics”; and “Laser Technology in Wall and Ceiling Construction”.

The AWCI Academy Council which is responsible for developing all the educational programming for the Association met during Academy ‘87 and elected officers for the coming year. The following individuals will serve on the Academy Council until November 1988:

**Chairman, James M. Keller,**
James A Keller, Inc.
Toledo, Ohio

**First Vice Chairman,**
**Nancy Goodman,**
Mid-Ohio Drywall, Inc.
Lancaster, Ohio

**Second Vice Chairman,**
**Glenn Modesitt,**
Hormuth Drywall & Painting Service
Evansville, Indiana

**Secretary, David A. Anderson**
Anderson Interiors, Inc.
Plano, Illinois

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers! And congratulations to AWCI’s Academy Council for putting on another fine program!