Attendees

“Tune In” in Record Numbers

AWCI’s 71st Annual Convention a Resounding Success

The 1988 Wall and Ceiling Convention and Exposition was a resounding success. The Convention enjoyed its largest on-site “walk-in” registration in its history March 16-20, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. AWCI again surpassed the 2,000 mark in total number of attendees with 2,346.

The four day meeting schedule was packed-full of events, including: committee meetings, educational programs, celebrity speakers, award presentations, social events and a sold-out 228 booth exposition, and a Board of Directors meeting.

Following Convention Chairman Jim Biddle’s rendition of “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” the Opening General Session featured two outstanding speakers, former Reagan nominee for the US. Supreme Court Judge Robert H. Bork and General P.X. Kelley, former Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

With knowledgeable industry professionals heading up our educational programs, the sessions were packed full of information and participants.

As always, some of the highlights of the Convention were the gala social events including the President’s Welcome Reception, the Foundation Auction and the Final Night Dinner Dance, with entertainment by the world renowned Kingston Trio.
AWARDS BREAKFAST: A Breakfast of Champions

The Annual Awards Breakfast is AWCI's chance to honor its own. The keynote speaker for this year's popular event was Capt. Charles Ever-ret Southwick, currently the Director of the Congressional Liaison Office of NASA and former Vietnam POW.

PINNACLE AWARD TO MORSILLI

Frank Morsilli of Dryvit System, Inc., West Warwick, Rhode Island was honored at the Awards Breakfast with the industry’s most coveted honor, the Pinnacle Award. Recipients of the Pinnacle Award, and its predecessor, the E.F. Venzie Award, become lifetime members of AWCI’s prestigious Circle of Leadership.

FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

AWCI had the distinct pleasure of bestowing its highest honor, Honorary Membership in AWCI, to Jack Carlson of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Past President Robert L. Whittle of St. Louis, Missouri.

Granted for life, this honor is conferred on selected retired members of the Association and others who have "performed conspicuous or meritorious services to the wall and ceiling industry.”
FLORIDA CHAPTER RECEIVES CHAPTER AWARD
FIRST OUTSTANDING

The Florida Wall and Ceiling Contractors' Association (FWCC) received the first Outstanding Chapter Award ever presented by AWCI. Accepting the award at the Convention in Nashville for FWCC were Arlis Atkinson, Vice President and Peggy McCollum, Executive Vice President at the Annual Breakfast of Champions.

The award was developed in an effort to recognize the achievements of AWCI’s chartered chapters and is based on a variety of criteria, including: service to the industry, membership growth, AWCI Convention attendance, and continuous support of AWCI.

Congratulations FWCC!

McCollum    Crane    Atkinson
MORE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS HONORED

Colussi  Anderson  Hawksley  Shiraki  Zellner  Negwer  Bell

“UNSUNG HERO” AWARD
Elmo Colussi
Opec Acoustics & Drywall Limited
Weston, Ontario

OUTSTANDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE
Evelyn Shiraki
Gypsum Drywall Contractors of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

K.M. “Mike” Williams
National Federation of Plastering Contractors
London, England

OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Michael J. Zellner
Zellner Plastering Company
Los Angeles, California

OUTSTANDING SUPPLIER MEMBER
Robert Negwer
Negwer Materials
St. Louis, Missouri

J.D. McNULTY AWARD
William A. Bell
Drywall, Inc.
Lexington, Kentucky
SEVENTH ANNUAL GREAT ADVENTURES AUCTION
A Benefit to the Industry

The Seventh Great Adventures Auction held during the Wall and Ceiling Industry’s 71st Annual Convention and sponsored by the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, was a tremendous success with gross receipts exceeding $57,000.

The donations received in the Auction are used to benefit the Foundation’s continued activities including: management of the John H. Hampshire Research and Reference Library; quarterly publication of the technical newsletter, Foundation Updates; participation in the ACSA Construction Materials and Technology Institute to educate professors of architecture about our industry; production of the Foundation’s industry video; and establishment of an endowment fund for the Foundation’s new Scholarship Program.

Setting some Auction records were Richard Szustakowski of West Henrietta, New York and Liddle Brothers Contractors, of Nashville, Tennessee: Richard Szustakowski (Dick Ski) of Henrietta Building Supplies whose bid of $16,000 for the limited edition bronze sculpture, donated by Domtar Gypsum, was the highest single bid of the evening. And Liddle Brothers Contractors who purchased a total of seven Auction items—an all time record.

Serving again as Master of Ceremonies was Auction Chairman T. Gilley Hickman and for the fifth year Jarvene Shackeford was the Auctioneer.

The evening’s activities included a special presentation to Grace Troy and the entire Troy family in honor and memory of H.R. “Speck” Troy, an industry leader and Foundation supporter. Upon Speck Troy’s passing in 1981, a memorial fund was established in his name. The family annually donates to the fund. Plans are now underway to utilize the H.R. “Speck” Troy Memorial Fund toward a specifically designated and meaningful Foundation Project.
EXHIBIT HALL EXCITEMENT . . .

ISSUES AND ANSWERS. . .
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING . . .

AN OVERALL LOOK AT
AWCI’S 1988
CONVENTION . . .