
Charting a Course for the Next Decade

Industry leaders Meet in San Diego

The challenges of the next decade were the focus of a series of industry meetings held at the end of October in San Diego, California. The meetings, attended by wall and ceiling industry leaders from all over North America, is commonly known as the Committee Week of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries-International (AWCI).

The issues addressed in the various committee meetings included industry education and training needs, technical challenges in all segments of the industry and improving the exchange of information among groups in the industry.

Industry Education

Industry education and training was "number one" on the agenda of the Merit Shop Committee. The Committee took the opportunity to introduce the recently released Wheels of Learning Drywall Training Program, Part 2. The program was developed for training craftsmen on the most up-to-date skills for drywall installation.

The Academy Council, AWCI's committee for industry education, also met and discussed the Academy '89 program. The group also reviewed the educational sessions to be offered at the annual convention and other seminars to be offered in the coming year. Scheduled for February 1990 is a series of seminars on Welding of Light Gauge Steel Framing. Coming up in May and June are seminars on panelization.

Technical Challenges

AWCI's seven technical committees had their work cut out for them as they



took on some of the long standing problems facing those in the wall and ceiling industry. The groups have spent the past year doing everything from developing technical manuals to drafting joint industry statements. The results of these subcommittees' work will be reported in upcoming issues of Construction Dimensions.

Industry Information Exchange

Many industry groups participated in the activities and the exchange of information at this year's Committee Week including: the Exterior Insulation Manufacturers' Association (EIMA), the Painting and Decorating Contractors' of America, the Gypsum Association, and various local, state and regional industry associations.

"We had great committee meetings during Committee Week this year—some of the greatest ever. To those of you that participated, thank you," noted Ron Brady, president of AWCI.



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