AWCI Convention to Feature Live Drywall Contest

1st time at AWCI

After many long years of shopping malls and other public sites the Live Drywall Contest will finally be where it should be—at the AWCI Convention. This year’s site will be at the AWCI Convention in the Convention Center in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Live Drywall Contest will consist of a maximum of 8 apprentice installers from the Union Carpenters and 8 union apprentice drywall finishers from apprenticeship programs throughout the United States and Canada. A criteria for the selection of the installer and finisher contestants has been approved by the Contest Committee.

The installers will start with a 10' x 10' platform with only the partial back wall in place. They will then receive a blueprint from which to erect a module. The erectors are supplied with all materials; ladders, step stool, 4' T-squares, levels and screw guns. However, they must supply the remainder of the tools needed.

The finishers have a completed 10' x 10' module, only the drywall finishing and texturing is lacking. Each module is identical.

Materials for the carpenter installers and tape and compound for the finishers are issued in equal amounts. The Milwaukee Tool Company has for years, supplied the finishers with 1/2" drill motors for mixing and screw guns, not only for the installers but for the finishers. The Marshalltown Trowel Company and the Ames Tool Company have also supplied the finishers with trowels, knives and the other...
tools for finishing. The board, metal, steel studs and other materials have usually been donated by local suppliers and contractors.

The judges are knowledgeable persons from the trade, from both labor and management. The judging covers every operation in the installation portion as well as every step needed to produce a properly finished module in the finishers portion. The final judging is determined on trade knowledge as well as the manipulative skills. The written portion accounts for 10 percent and the manipulative for 90 percent of the total score. Both the written and manipulative tests are timed, which is extremely important since all contestants are extremely capable and time could determine the winner in a close contest.

There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from both installers and finishers. These winners are presented plaques and checks for their accomplishments at the Awards Dinner the evening following the completion of the contest.

The objective of this Live Drywall Contest is to promote the welfare and development of the Union Drywall Industry through the improvement and standardization of teaching methods and materials and the quality of workmanship that will set the standard for application and finishing of drywall.

We indeed owe a debt of thanks to Joe Baker, Jim Biddle, Joe Feldner and the AWCI Executive Committee for their foresight in including the contest in the AWCI Convention. The contest is finally where we believe it belongs—with the people involved in the drywall industry.