Contributions Recognized at San Francisco Convention

The individuals and organizations who have done the most in the past year to advance the wall and ceiling industry will be singled out for special honors at AWCI’s annual convention in San Francisco.

Named by their peers for special recognition, the award recipients will join an elite group whose contributions have made the industry what it is today. In addition to AWCI’s annual Outstanding Awards, of course, the coveted Pinnacle Award will be made to the individual who has given unselfishly of his or her time and energies to benefit AWCI and the industry.

The identity of the Pinnacle Award winner is traditionally kept secret until the presentation ceremony. Another award, the McNulty Award, which is presented by the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, will also be made at the ceremony.

AWCI’s “Breakfast of Champions,” at which award winners will be introduced and the Pinnacle Award winner will be named, is scheduled for Friday, March 22, from 8:00 to 10:45 a.m. The breakfast is sponsored by Dryvit Systems, Inc.

Supplier Member of the Year: Robert Geyer

Bob Geyer of John Wagner Associates/Grabber Southeast has just completed four years as Chairman of the Exhibitors’ Committee and has now been “promoted” to the Vice Chairmanship of the Convention Committee. In this capacity, he is a possible candidate for Chairman of the overall Convention Committee. He is a member of the Continuing Study Council and was selected by that body to be its Chairman-Elect in 1991-92. He is one of AWCI’s strongest supporters. Bob was elected Chairman of the Suppliers’ Council in Toronto.

Winning Spirit Award: T. Gilley Hickman

Gilley Hickman of Hickman Painting Co., Dallas, is truly one of a kind. His personal role in building the Foundation auction to the major event it now is has probably been a key to the success of the Foundation. He brings the professional auctioneers (who are his personal friends) to the auction, runs it himself, and works personally with staff on the many details which make the auction a success. He is a Past Chairman of the Continuing Study Council and continues to attend the annual CSC meetings. He served as an ex officio member of the AWCI Executive Committee and spent three years on the AWCI Board of Directors.

Young Member Achievement Award: Mark Nabity

Mark Nabity, who works for AWCI Second Vice President Bill Bell of Lexington, Kentucky, has long been active in the Academy Council, and in
that position has helped develop numerous AWCI educational programs. Mark also serves on the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry. His technical expertise is sought often by the AWCI Technical Department. He is Vice Chairman of the Membership Executive Committee and is a member of Technical SubCommittee #5.

**Outstanding Association Executive: Robert Drury**
Bob Drury is the son-in-law of the late Charles F. Clay, founder of *Walls & Ceilings* magazine. He is the Executive Director of the Northwest Wall and Ceiling Bureau in Seattle and has built that organization into one of the strongest local groups in North America. This year, Bob worked closely with the leadership and members of the Western Conference of Lathing and Plastering Institutes to orchestrate a direct mail and person-to-person campaign to get members of ICBO to vote against the masonry code change which would have virtually destroyed the EIFS industry.

**Outstanding Association Executive: Tom Sheppard**
Tom Sheppard is the Executive Director of the Lathing and Plastering Contractors’ Association of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. He serves as Chairman of the Western Conference of Lathing and Plastering Institutes and in this capacity coordinated the fight in the West against the masonry industry attacks on EIFS. He helped get members of ICBO to vote down the masonry code change which would have virtually destroyed the EIFS industry.

**Outstanding Association Executive: Wayne James**
Wayne James is the Executive Director of the Texas Lathing and Plastering Contractors’ Association. Although his organization is not a chartered chapter of AWCI, Wayne is highly cooperative with and supportive of AWCI and its programs. He played a major role in representing the industry at both ICBO and Southern Building Code meetings. Wayne has been honored two years in a row by the Texas Society of Association Executives.

**Outstanding Association Executive: Clint C. Fladland**
Clint Fladland has managed the Minnesota Bureau for Lathing and Plastering for more than 25 years. He is recognized by architects, specifiers and builders in the Twin Cities area as “Mr. Lath and Plaster,” and has become the top seller in his area for exterior insulation finish systems. In this he works closely with organized labor and management in the industry to insure quality work which will result in additional sales for EIFS. He also played a key role in representing the industry at the ICBO meeting in Denver.

**Outstanding Association Executive: Frank Nunes**
As Executive Director of the Lathing and Plastering Institute of Northern California, Frank Nunes was on the front lines in the battles against the masonry and Portland cement industries to preserve EIFS in the marketplace. Frank has been with the Northern California Institute for a number of years and is headquartered in Lafayette, California.

Outstanding Association Executive: Eugene Z. Fisher

As AWCI’s Technical Director for the past four years, Gene Fisher learned about the industry on the job to the point where he has become one of its most knowledgeable spokesmen. At Denver, Gene’s solid direction kept the EIFS group together and working for the same goal. A number of the association representatives and EIMA people at the Denver meeting attested to his efforts in winning the ICBO victory.

Outstanding Committee Chairman: R. Gabe Reitter II

Gabe Reitter is Chairman of the Lifetime Membership Committee. He set a goal of 15 new Lifetime Members during his first year as Committee Chairman, and he and his committee signed up 14 Lifetime Members. Gabe also worked closely with the AWCI Financial Advisory Committee to allow AWCI to borrow from the Lifetime funds in order to offset a serious cash flow crisis faced by AWCI this past year. His efforts have been unflagging in everything he does, from selling 50-50 chances at Committee Week to selling car raffle tickets at the Convention to “pushing” Lifetime Memberships.

Distinguished Chartered Chapter: Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association of St. Louis

The St. Louis Association is one of AWCI’s earliest chartered chapters. This group annually sends one of the highest percentages of its members to the AWCI convention. It also has authorized the underwriting of registration fees for its members who wish to attend AWCI educational programs, and this, of course, helps increase attendance at many of our programs. The Association is one of AWCI’s strongest chapter supporters.

“Unsung Hero”: James D. (Dick) Hopkins

Dick Hopkins was with Dryvit for many years before leaving to start his own consulting firm. He was appointed to the new Communications and Marketing Committee. He has been a stalwart as well on AWCI’s Technical Committee, and his knowledge of EIFS is unmatched by anyone in the industry. He is also an officer of the Academy Council. As Executive Director of EIMA, he helped orchestrate the successful efforts to fend off masonry attacks on EIFS at the code levels.

Honorary Members: Larry Fernald, Nathan Kimmel, Jack Dillard, Homer Bartles and Deane W. Rockwell

McNulty Award: To be announced prior to the convention

Pinnacle Award: To be named at the Awards Breakfast.