Of all the membership benefits in AWCI, perhaps the greatest is the opportunity for an individual member to participate in the work of a committee and join his peers to help make a significant impact on the industry. Over 300 AWCI members are doing just that through the association's committee structure, a committee structure that makes the association responsive to member needs.

AWCI members will have a unique opportunity to help determine the association's future and the directions the association will take to serve members by attending the 29th annual Committee Week, October 22-27, 1991, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii. All of AWCI's committees will meet during this important session, and at the conclusion of the week, members will have had the opportunity to meet Board of Directors meeting resources will be allocated so that their work can proceed.

In these meetings members benefit not only with their own contributions in helping to determine the direction of the committees' work, but also can learn from other committee members in valuable discussions. Indeed, many AWCI members report the most important part of Committee Week as far as they are concerned is the opportunity to meet and talk with others around the country who have developed solutions for the problems they face.

Some of the most valuable work at Committee Week is done by the Technical Subcommittees. For example, Technical Subcommittee No. 1 (Exterior Wall Assemblies) is working on a model guide specification for panelization. Technical Subcommittees Nos. 2 and 7 (Portland Cement-based Plasters and EIFS) are putting the final touches on a pre-apprenticeship training curriculum for EIFS applicators. Technical Subcommittee No. 3 (Gypsum Board, Demountable Partitions, Gypsum/Metal Lath and Gypsum Plaster) completed the already-popular Recommended Specification: Levels of Gypsum Board Finish and is preparing it for submission to ASTM for possible inclusion in the ASTM C840 Standard Specification on the Application and Finishing of...
Gypsum Board. Technical Subcommittee No. 4 (Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Materials) submitted a proposed code change on thickness tolerances to ICBO for consideration in the Uniform Building Code. This subcommittee is also preparing a revision of AWCI’s Technical Manual No. 12 on Design Selection Utilizing Spray Applied Fire Protection and a revision to AWCI’s Industry Standard on Fireproofing (included in the June issue of Construction Dimensions and to be published soon).

In addition, Technical Subcommittee No. 5 (Interior/Exterior Lightweight Steel Framing) is developing a primer on steel framing based on articles from this magazine, as well as a manual on model contractor programs to establish in-house welding certification. Technical Subcommittee No. 6 (Acoustical, Access Flooring and Cavity Wall Materials) is investigating a contractor certification program established by the Insulation Contractors Association of America and the new firesafing standards for panelization under development by the American Architectural Manufacturers Association. Technical Subcommittee No. 8 (Industry Tolerances) is working on a Tolerances Manual that will become an industry standard when it is released.

In addition to the work in the technical area, volunteer members on other association committees are working equally hard in areas that will have a direct impact on how you do business and on your potential profitability. The Academy Council develops the educational program for AWCI’s Academy, recognized as the most useful educational experience in the industry for young executives. It also develops the educational seminars that are an important part of AWCI’s annual convention, and it is responsible for approving any stand-alone seminars that might be offered throughout the year to meet member needs.

The Government Relations Committee monitors and comments on legislation and regulation affecting the construction industry and AWCI members. It has been especially active during the past year, with introductions of civil rights legislation (the “Quota Bill,” which did not get enough votes again this year to override the President’s threatened veto); the Striker Replacement Act; and, most worrisome to AWCI members, the Gaydos Bill on construction safety, which would establish a new bureaucracy to monitor construction safety and require what some have called an “avalanche” of paperwork. In addition to monitoring legislative efforts at the national level, this committee watches the regulatory process. OSHA is releasing final regulations on ladders and scaffolds, and the committee will investigate ways to help members comply with the new regulations. It is also working with OSHA to emphasize employee accountability and make employees responsible along with employers for jobsite safety.

The International Contracting Committee is a new committee formed
Scenes from the Executive Committee and final Board meetings.

to help members learn about international business opportunities for their services. Developed mainly as a result of reconstruction opportunities in Kuwait following the Gulf War, the International Committee is widening its outlook to include opportunities in the rest of the Gulf area, Central and Eastern Europe, the Far East, Mexico and Canada, and other areas of the world. Changing international relationships seem to be opening up many new opportunities, and this committee will investigate them and help members take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

Four separate committees form the Labor-Management Group for apprenticeship and labor liaison activities with the international unions. Industry trades involves include car-
The Labor-Management Group coordinates union relations and training.

Penters and lathers, laborers, paint-
committee helped develop an appren-
ticeship training program for drywall.

These committees are only the tip
of the iceberg Others monitor AWCI’s
internal functionings, including the
Audit and Budget, Bylaws and Head-
quarters Committees. State and re-
gional concerns are addressed by the
Regional Vice Presidents Commit-
tee, the Chartered Chapter Execu-
tives Committee, and other groups.

AWCI’s convention is the result of
intense planning and preparation by
the Convention Committee, and the
Exhibitors Committee contributes to
this as well as the exposition that has
become the largest in the industry.

AWCI’s Political Action Committee
(WAC/PAC) has grown to become
one of the largest in the construction
industry, helping candidates with a
pro-business outlook.

The association’s think tank is the
Continuing Study Council, which
meets for two weeks each year to review
all association programs and possible
services. Making sure that member
needs are met is also a responsibility
of the Communications and Market-
ing Committee, with valuable help
from the Lifetime Members Com-
mittee and other groups.

This article cannot possibly pro-
vide an outline of the work of all the
committees; it is intended to provide
an idea of the vast range of workbeing
undertaken by the committees on
behalf of all AWCI members. Few
associations have the high member
involvement of AWCI, or success-
fully respond to industry and member
needs so quickly and effectively.

For information on the 29th
Committee Week in Honolulu Octo-
ber 22-27, 1991, call AWCI today at
(703) 684-2924. Favorable hotel and
air fare arrangements have been made,
but you will have to act soon in order
to take advantage of them.