Outstanding Contributions Recognized with Awards at 75th 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 75th annual convention in Washington, D.C.

Named by their peers for special recognition, award recipients will join an elite group whose contributions have made the industry what it is today. The special Awards Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 1992, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Winners of AWCI’s awards include:

**Outstanding Association Executive**
Michael J. Crimi, executive with the Association of the Wall, Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Hicksville, New York, will be honored for his many contributions to AWCI in the past year. He was instrumental in completing the merger with the metropolitan New York Drywall Contractors Association, Inc., a little more than a year ago, and he brought that group into AWCI. In addition to his work with the Council of Association Executives, he worked closely with the Labor-Management Group and the Chartered Chapters Committee.

**Distinguished Chartered Chapter**
The Florida Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association of Tallahassee, Florida, receives this honor in recognition of its high level of participation with AWCI as well as its own active program to help wall and ceiling contractors in the state. FWCCA is one of AWCI’s largest and most active chartered chapters.

**Outstanding Committee Chairmen**
Two individuals will receive the Outstanding Committee Chairman Award in Washington this year—Rich Eaton of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for his service as Chairman of Technical Subcommittee No. 4, and Frank Wojehowski of St. Louis, Missouri, for his service as Chairman of the Labor-Management Executive Committee.

Rich Eaton started working in the lathing and plastering industry over 30 years ago in his father’s company (his father, Dale Eaton, was a member of CPLIA’s Board of Directors in the ’60s). He has worked hard to develop AWCI’s Sprayed Fireproofing Standards.

Frank Wojehowski played an important leadership role in getting four labor unions to sign off on AWCI’s Joint Labor Agreement. This agreement has achieved spectacular results in showing how union companies and employees can work together to compete effectively in the marketplace.

**Supplier Member of the Year**
Ed Jakacki of USG Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, is being honored for his many contributions to AWCI. With over three and a half decades of experience in plaster building materials, Ed is truly a “plaster master.” He has always been willing to share his expertise, serving on AWCI’s Technical Executive Committee, Technical Subcommittees No. 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8, and on committees for exhibitors, conventions, and the Council of Supplier Members.

**Young Member Achievement Award**
Mike Poellinger of La Crosse,
Wisconsin, will receive an award in recognition of his involvement in a wide variety of AWCI activities. Mike serves on the Technical Executive Committee, Technical Subcommittees No. 2 and 6, the Communications & Marketing Committee, and the Academy Council. He is also heavily involved at the regional level, working with the Mid-Central Region.

Unsung Hero

James L. Houser of Domtar Gypsum, Ann Arbor, Michigan, will be honored for his years of dedication and service. In addition to writing many articles for this magazine, he served two terms on AWCI’s Board of Directors and was President of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry. He has been in the gypsum industry for over 39 years.

Winning Spirit Award

The Winning Spirit Award will go to the Exterior Insulation Manufacturers Association for its work promoting the EIFS industry and its role defending EIFS from the many code challenges it has faced. EIMA has worked closely with AWCI on many industry matters.

Special Award

A special recognition award will be presented to Urban Rump for his service as interim technical director of AWCI.

Honorary Members

Four AWCI members will be named Honorary Members at the Awards Luncheon: Gordon Scott of Dallas, Texas; James L. Houser of Ann Arbor, Michigan; Ed Thompson of Orland Park, Illinois; and Frank J. Kraftt of Alexandria, Virginia.

Gordon Scott started in the industry in 1944 as a sales representative for the Ceco Corporation. He set up his own company in 1984 and represented Consolidated Systems, AMICO, Bostwick Steel Lath, and others. He also served as Texas Distributor for Pleko.

James L. Houser, who is also receiving the Unsung Hero Award, has been in the industry for over 39 years.

Ed Thompson worked with Chicago Metallic for many years. He served on AWCI’s Board of Directors and the Suppliers Council. He is currently an acoustical business consultant.

Frank Kraftt was in the plaster, drywall, acoustical and fireproofing business for 43 years before retiring in 1990. His father co-founded Kraft-Murphy Co. in 1918. He was President of the International Association of Wall and Ceiling Contractors in 1973-74 and was active in promoting the merger of iAWCC and the Gypsum Drywall Contractors Association to form AWCI.