The 1,500+ folks who converged in Dallas at the 1996 AWCI Annual Convention and Exposition, March 20–23, gained valuable insights into running their business, saw the latest products on the market, met with friends old and new ... and had a little fun in the process.

Educational sessions covered topics like employee compensation, on-line information, scaffolding, succession, financial strategies and design liability. The Regional Caucus and Annual meeting featured Gayle Morin of the Internal Revenue Service, who told attendees how the IRS plans to define an independent contractor in the commercial drywall market. Also, incoming EIMA President Buck Buchanan provided an update on the troubles some homes in North Carolina have experienced with water penetration.

More than 190 booths filled the exhibit hall floor of the largest wall and ceiling exposition in the industry. Next year’s expo in New Orleans is bound to be even more immense because AWCI will once again join forces with their friends at CISCA for the “greatest wall and ceiling show on Earth.” (Exhibit hall photos are on pages 44–45.)

Association business included the traditional gavel exchange from this year’s AWCI president to the next (see AWCI on the Job, page 7), but it also included other exciting events like the FWCI raffle and the awards presentation (see pages 41 and 50–51).

The Annual Auction of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry generated $56,000, which will be used to further the FWCI’s educational mission. Rudy Meiswinkel of California took home the 1957 Chevy Bel-Air (see page 48).

The 50-50 raffle was conducted in a different way this year to allow more ticket-buyers a piece of the pie. California’s Gene Pleiman of National Gypsum went home with the $4,100 grand prize. Four other winners, each receiving $1,000, are Colorado’s Daphanie Miller, the group at the table with North... continued on page 45

The AWCI Executive Committee members, from left to right, are Mark and Hope Nabity, Steve and Carol Baker, Arlene Berkman and Gabe Reitter, B.J. and Peter Spanos, Bob and Barbara Geyer, Tom and Maura McCartney, Ann and Steve Watkins, and Joyce Bell with Convention Committee Chairman Bill Bell.
Bill Scott, president of W. C. Scott Interests Inc. of Houston, received AWCI’s prestigious Pinnacle Award during this year’s annual convention.

AWCI’s most prestigious honor, the Pinnacle Award, is presented annually to the individual who most merits our industry’s recognition, an individual who has given unselfishly of his or her time and energies to benefit AWCI and the industry. Not only are the candidates evaluated on their dedication to the industry, but on their civic/community work and the excellence of their companies.

Evidence of Scott’s leadership ability was seen at an early age. While in high school in Des Moines, Iowa, he played football, basketball and was a member of the track team. He also was president of both the student council and of his senior class. During this time he worked until he graduated in 1961 as a surveyor for the city. He graduated with honors from Des Moines Technical High School.

In 1957 he married his wife, Nadine. At this time, at age 21, he was managing sales in Iowa and part of Illinois for the Johns-Mansville Construction Division, selling acoustical ceilings and movable partitions, which he would later sell in his own business.

In 1963, the Scotts moved to Houston, where he became vice president and part owner of Schwarz-Jordon. Five years later, the Scotts formed W. C. Scott Company with $10,000 in savings and an office in their living room. Within the first year, the company was renting office and warehouse space. Scott’s personal philosophy of doing the job right, building and maintaining a reputation for good work, quality and reliability became the hallmark of his company.

Scott built his own office and warehouse facilities, totaling 50,000 square feet, in 1979. Subsidiary companies emerged, which in the 1980s became W. C. Scott Interests Inc., as it is known today. The company continues to grow based on quality installations of first-line products at competitive prices. In the last 10 years, W. C. Scott has renovated more than 3 million square feet of space.

Scott has served on the AWCI board of directors, and was the association’s 1987-88 president. In addition, he served on many AWCI committees—too many to mention them all here—since his company joined AWCI in 1974.

Nadine assisted as husband Bill Scott accepted AWCI’s most prestigious award, the Pinnacle Award, from AWCI President Tom McCartney (right).
At the Exhibit Hall
AWCI Convention Chairman Bill Bell, Joyce Bell and AWCI President Tom McCartney cut the ribbon to officially open the Exhibit Hall.

Page 45, first column, from top to bottom
Vern Lawer of the Wind-Lock Corp. demonstrates the Quick-Cut Hot Knife.
Rick Stobaugh (left) of Advanced Estimating Systems showed his software to a potential buyer.
Bill Meldram (left) of Louisiana-Pacific and Gary Stenoien of Reinke Supply.
Debbie, Randi and Chris Hawksley of Kentucky.

Page 45, second column
The Nelson King, Inc. booth
Pete Larry of Quik Drive USA, Inc. illustrated the power.

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continued from page 40
Carolina’s Jim Houser, Todd Brady (California) and Steve Baker (Texas).

All tours that were offered were sellouts. Attendees got acquainted with some of Dallas’ points of interest, including Neiman Marcus, while others opted for a night at the theater with Greater Tuna.

In all, AWCI convention attendees pumped more than $1.5 million into the Texas economy.

See you in New Orleans in 1997!
Fraternity, Friendship & Fun

Page 46, left: AWCI's joint craft committee ● Page 46, right: Don Morrice (New York) and Brian McGlone (New Jersey) ● Page 47, first three photos: Those who attended the Awards Brunch heard Keynote Speaker Jane Handly discuss the various greetings people give each other. She demonstrated various techniques with Jim Cassidy (Illinois), then asked attendees to give "a Type 4 Greeting"—which Patrick Boyd (Texas) did ... with Pat Cassidy (Illinois) ... and then with Nadine Scott (Texas). ● Page 47, bottom: Debbi and Francesco Morsilli of Rhode Island

More on page 48
Auctioneer Jackie Coursen volunteers his services to the Annual Auction of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry.

Rudy Meiswinkel of California bid on and won the 1957 Chevy Bel-Air.

Lu Thomas of Hamilton Materials tested a golf iron before placing her bid at the silent auction.
Giovanni the Magician (left) “read the mind” of Don Wagner (Maryland) with a little help from some balloons.

For the contributions made to the FWCI by the late Gilley Hickman, the family was honored with a marble obelisk presented by AWCI’s second vice president, Gabe Reitter. The family from left to right is Carl Janin, Steve Hickman and Steve’s sister Susan Janin.
AWCI President Tom McCartney presented AWCI’s Industry Awards to the winners during the Opening Brunch and Awards Presentation March 21.

In all but the last photo, McCartney is pictured on the right and the winners are on the left.

The Winning Spirit Award
Don Brown & CNA Insurance Co., Vice President, Commercial Lines Group, Chicago, Illinois

Don Brown has 25 years of loss-control service experience in commercial property and casualty insurance in both private and public business sectors. At one time or other, functional responsibilities included management assignments in field branch operations and regional offices as well as corporate headquarters. He has spent 12 years in managing accident-prevention service to national accounts for Fortune 500 corporations.

Since April 1990, Brown has been assigned to CNA’s Commercial Affiliation Marketing group, where he coordinates loss-control service for seven national construction trade associations, including AWCI. Current duties include consulting with various committee chairs, association leadership and contractors to help develop service goals and objectives, providing technical cost-management data and researching legislative information. He is accountable for active participation in special projects to enhance the quality of service and strengthen business relationships between CNA and commercial insurance policyholders.

The Unsung Heroes Award
Jimmie U. Crane, Chief Executive Officer, F. L. Crane & Sons, Inc., Fulton, Mississippi

Jimmie U. Crane began specialty contracting with his father in 1956. In 1963, he and his brother, Johnny, incorporated the company and Jimmie served as president of the corporation for many years. In recent years, his nephew bought an interest in the company and Crane assumed the position of chief executive officer.

During his long association with the construction industry, he has been very active in professional construction organizations. He is a past president of AWCI and has served on its board of directors (1994-1995), and its Nominating Committee and Lifetime Membership Committee this past year. Crane is the 1994 recipient of the AWCI Pinnacle Award.

Supplier Member of the Year
Joseph J. Vuono, Vice President and General Manager, Senergy, Inc., Cranston, Rhode Island

Joseph J. Vuono is the vice president and general manager of the Senergy/ThoroWall Division of Harris Specialty Chemicals, Inc. He has been in the EIFS industry for more than 20 years.

He joined Senergy, Inc. upon its founding in 1979, and served as president and chief executive officer from that time until he sold the company to HSC on Nov. 15, 1995. The Senergy/ThoroWall Division is the second largest manufacturer of EIFS in the United States. Senergy is a Lifetime Member of AWCI.

Prior to founding Senergy, Vuono was president of Dryvit Systems, Inc., and before that had held other leading management positions with Dow Chemical and Crompton and Knowles. Vuono has been an active member of AWCI and the EIFS Industry Members Association. Vuono is currently serving his second term as president of EIMA.
Outstanding Association Execution

Donald Morrice, Labor Counsel
Drywall and Interior Systems Contractors’ Association, Inc., Cedar Grove, New Jersey

Donald Morrice has practiced law in New Jersey for 35 years. He is a principal of Donald E. Morrice, PA, and has a practice with an emphasis on labor and employment law, commercial and business law litigation. He has been labor counsel to the Drywall and Interior Systems Contractors’ Association, Inc. of New Jersey since 1977. He negotiates labor contracts with local unions and writes a column in DISCA’s newsletter, SPEX keeping his association abreast of current legal developments that impact the construction industry.

Motrice serves on AWCI’s Carpenters Craft Committee, the Council of Association Executives, the Chartered Chapter Committee and the Union Contractor Council. He attends all AWCI Committee Weeks and conventions and is an active participant on behalf of DISCA members. DISCA’s board of directors appointed him executive director in 1984.

Distinguished Chapter Award

Wall & Ceiling Contractors’ Association of Metro St. Louis,
St Louis, Missouri

Frank Wojehowski (left) and Bob Weiss of the WCCA accepted the award on behalf of WCCA Executive Director Charlie Wallace.

The Wall & Ceiling Contractors Association of Metro St. Louis was formed as a union contractor organization in 1962 under the name of Greater St. Louis Gypsum Drywall Contractors Association. In 1978, when it became a charter chapter of AWCI, the name was changed to WCCA. The chapter has given AWCI a past president, several lifetime members and others who participate on or chair AWCI committees, including the AWCI board of directors.

The Wall & Ceiling Contractors’ Association of Metro St. Louis works closely with the St. Louis Metro Plastering Promotional Bureau to create more work for union contractors and provide for the exchange of information to help keep the union contractors competitive and up-to-date on technical information. The architectural and engineering community also is provided technical services on behalf of both associations.

Outstanding Committee Chairman

Richard Eaton, Conroy Brothers/Olympic Wall, Minnetonka, Minnesota

Rich Eaton worked full time in the wall and ceiling industry for 35 years as an estimator/project manager. He worked for his father, Dale Eaton, at Dale Eaton Company in Lincoln, Neb., for several years. In 1967, he formed Richard Contractors, Inc. In 1973, Eaton moved to Minneapolis, where he worked for Peterson & Hede Co. After Arnold Hede’s death in 1983 and the liquidation of the company, he joined Donnelly Stucco Company, where he was manager of the commercial division. His current employer is Conray Bros. Co. of Minneapolis, which he joined in 1989. His responsibilities are focused on sprayed fireproofing, EIFS, lathing and plastering.

Eaton has been chairman of AWCI’s Sprayed Fireproofing Committee (Technical Subcommittee #4) for several years. This is the second time he has been selected outstanding committee chairman. He is currently a member of AWCI’s board of directors. He is also a member of the Construction Specifications Institute, American Society of Professional Estimators and International Conference of Building Officials.

Young Member Achievement Award

Kelly Boylan, President, Quest Interior Construction, Inc., Lexington, Ohio

Kelly Boylan was born July 26, 1956, and resides in Lexington, Ohio, where he has been president of Quest Interior Construction for the past 16 years.

Boylan is chairman of the AWCI Academy Council and a member of the Merit Shop Committee.

Boylan attended Ohio State University and the University of Akron, where he obtained a degree in business administration.

—AWCI Meeting Coordinator Pam Bolls conducted the research and writing of this article.