A WCI’s 1999 Annual Convention & Trade Show in Washington, DC, broke attendance records with more than 2,220 attendees—almost 100 more than the 1998 convention and exposition in Reno, Nev.

It is hoped that the 2000 convention and trade show at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nev., will also break records. As we were going to press, the 2000 exhibit hall is about 90 percent sold out. (Potential exhibitors are encouraged to call AWCI’s meetings and trade show department at 703-538-1610.)

Committee Meetings

In the days preceding the annual convention, many of AWCI’s committees met to discuss industry issues. Some discussion highlights are these:

The AWCI board of directors unanimously approved the fund-raising campaign for the new EIFS video and workbook. This new aspect of the current EIFS Mechanics’ and Inspectors’ Education and Certificate Program will allow AWCI to reach more of the people in the field who want to become certified EIFS applicators.

AWCI’s board also passed a motion that would allow AWCI and the EIFS Industry Members Association to investigate the cost of creating a captive insurance program for EIFS contractors. This captive insurance program would allow AWCI and EIMA to set up a Class III insurance company, which would allow insurance coverage for only the most conscientious EIFS contracting companies.

Finally, the AWCI board of directors has approved a task force, derived from the Spray-Applied Fire-Resistive Materials Committee, to move forward in hiring a spray-fireproofing consultant to represent fireproofing contractors before the various code bodies. AWCI’s gypsum board committee also has been given the go-ahead to create a booklet on fire-resistive joints that is specifically for architects.

The EIFS Curriculum and Examinations Committees ratified changes to the inspection program. There are now three separate pathways for the certificate program: the original mechanics’ education and certificate program; the original inspectors’ program for existing independent inspectors and building officials; and an additional track for the inspectors’ program that would allow entrance for manufacturers, EIFS contractors, distributors and architects.

The Supplier and Manufacturer Member Committee nominated the following people to positions on the suppliers committee for 2001 through 2002: the Gypsum Association’s Michael Gardner, Hacker Industries, Inc.’s Kerry Hacker, and USG’s Lori Shermant.

Keith Goulet of Tool World/Dursystems, Inc. was nominated to be brought forward to AWCI’s Nominating Committee as the supplier member representative to serve on the AWCI board of directors beginning July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2003.

It was announced in AWCI’s Carpenters’ Craft Committee that a new international agreement has been signed by AWCI and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America. The major improvement is better mobility provisions.

Finally, AWCI’s technical committees met to review their work in progress and address new challenges. Technical issues
of particular interest were the ongoing passive fire resistant materials vs. sprinkler tradeoffs, the new EIFS mechanics’ and inspectors’ training and certificate programs, and the question about head of wall fire restrictive joint design.

Members of the Portland Cement Plaster Committee are concerned that the Uniform Building Code requires two layers of grade D felt paper over plywood sheathing before applying a Portland cement stucco finish, and the other model codes only require one layer.

Concerns were also raised about who is responsible for the installation of flashing and other moisture-proofing materials. It was decided to recommend additional language regarding scheduling in the “Design Considerations” sections of AWCI’s draft document regarding weather-resistive barriers.

The EIFS and Related Products Committee discussed proposing changes to the new ASTM standard C1397, which would increase the minimum extended polystyrene board thickness from the current 1 inch to 1½ inches for mechanically attached boards in order to comply with manufacturers’ recommendations.

The Spray-Applied Fire-Resistive Materials Committee discussed the ongoing search for a code consultant to help advance the interests of the passive fireproofing industries. A subcommittee, chaired by James Hagen of Fire-proof Coatings in San Diego, was appointed to pursue the matter further.

AWCI’s Specialty & Acoustical Products/Industry Tolerances Committee reviewed a proposal from the National Institute of Building Sciences to work with several other organizations to develop a Total Building Commissioning document. NIBS has asked AWCI to provide the necessary information regarding various interior wall, ceiling and floor systems.

The Gypsum Board, Gypsum/Metal Lath/Gypsum Plaster Committee discussed the development of a document concerning head-of-wall fire resistive joint designs. Several members have expressed a need for a document that can be used to standardize the elements necessary to meet the criteria for a head of wall joint. There is much confusion among building officials, architects, specifiers and building contractors about whether a static joint design ver-

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Different regions and jurisdictions have different criteria for such designs, and the standards are constantly evolving. After some discussion, it was decided that the committee would work with already-published material to develop such a document.

The Interior & Exterior Steel Framing Committee examined changes to the Cold Formed Steel Framing Primer formerly known as the Light Gauge Steel Framing Primer. The committee decided that revisions should include articles on residential framing and truss construction.

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The Fundraisers

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The big-ticket item this year was a 1967 Ford Mustang convertible, donated by Grabber Construction Products. Johnny Crane, president of EL. Crane & Sons, Inc., Fulton, Miss., and his wife, Bessie Lynn (pictured below, left), gave the high bid of $20,600, and they took the car home.

Another favorite fund-raiser is AWCI’s 50-50 raffle, which benefits AWCI’s programs. The grand jackpot winner was Peter Hausmann (picture at right, center) of Richter System Gmbh & Co. KG, Griesheim, Germany. He took home $3,900. The two other winners, who each won $1,950, were Richard Eaton (left) of Olympic Wall Systems, Minnetonka, Minn., and Bruce Miller (right) of Denver Drywall Company.

AWCI’s Putting Challenge gave participants the opportunity to win $10,000. No one took home the $10,000, but other prizes were awarded. The first-place winner, who took home an Odyssey Putter, was Jeff Mylin of...
Smucker Company, Smoketown, Pa. Second place was awarded to Merv Smucker, also of Smucker Company; he won a Taylor shirt. Finally third place went to David Westerman of General Building Supply, Fast Hartford, Conn. His prize was a Taylor hat.

**FWCI Scholarships**

The Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry awarded educational scholarships to three individuals in the wall and ceiling industry who are seeking degrees in disciplines related to the building trades. Each winner will receive an initial $500 grant applicable toward tuition costs for the fall 1999 semester.

The scholarship recipients are as follows:
Gordon is an employee of Bouma Corporation of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Jonathan Thomas Wies of Wentzville, Mo., is a warehouse assistant and son of Terry Wies of Wies Drywall and Construction Corporation, St. Louis, Mo.

To receive an application for the 2000 scholarship program, contact the FWCI at (703) 538-1615.

For more information about next year’s AWCI convention and trade show, call Holly Hospel at (703) 538-1609.