AWI Carries Standards Message to Specifiers

AWI carried a dynamic New Standards message to Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) regional events in the first quarter of 2019!

At the CSI Southwest Regional Conference in Chandler, AZ, April 3-6, AWI Communications Strategist Margaret Fisher represented the Institute and delivered the Design Pro Series Program, “AWS2 008 Designing with Hardwood Veneer.” She also introduced the Keynote Speaker for the event.

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“Sponsoring the Keynote Speaker at these conferences affords us the greatest potential to address ALL the registered attendees at the moment of their highest attention. Just before the Keynote speaker begins, AWI capitalizes on the opportunity to announce the latest in AWI standards progress as well as invite attendees to join AWI as an Affiliate for a one-year complimentary membership,” said Margaret, organizer of this external marketing project.

Running concurrently, AWI Speakers Bureau participant and AWI and CSI member Lynne Leach of Unique Concepts, represented AWI at the CSI South Central Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, April 4-6. Arriving fresh from the AWI Spring Leadership Conference in New Orleans, LA, Lynne was able to field inquiries about the new AWI standards during the tabletop expo and deliver a one-hour AIA CEU presentation on AWI Standards Use and Development. Lynne is one of five members of the AWI Speakers Bureau specially trained to deliver educational material regarding the new AWI standards and take questions on that topic.

Casework Standard Out for Comment

The Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI) recently announced that the AWI 0641 - Architectural Wood Casework Standard has been completed and approved by the AWI Technical Committee.

Review/Vetting

With the completion of the standard, the AWI team has begun the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) canvass process, during which the standard will be subject to further review and vetting by industry leaders. At the completion of the canvass process, the AWI team will address any comments or suggestions submitted by the canvass body.

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AWI OUTREACH

It’s hard to make AWI’s Sponsorship logo look more glamorous than the CSI Great Lakes Region Detroit, MI did when they displayed the logo over the surface of a Motown music video of Diana Ross in a silver sequined gown! The energy created by the 30-minute Motown music video presentation prior to Margaret’s first-of-the-day delivery of the AWI AIA CEU program on Use and Development of Woodwork Standards was so strong the attendees were practically dancing.

“Diana Ross is a tough act to follow for sure but, I could really appreciate the high energy and alert participation of the attendees after that,” Margaret said. CSI standards users at that conference, April 11-13, were pleased to hear of AWI’s progress in the new standards development and expressed delight that the standards would be more concise and easier to navigate. Additional time was spent after the delivery explaining the Quality Certification Program (QCP) and clarifying the cost of project certification.

Meanwhile, out in Atlanta, GA, Lynne Leach was representing AWI at the CSI Southeast Conference where she was also performing her duties as that CSI region’s treasurer.

AWI will build on these successes by being present as a high-level sponsor at four more CSI Regional Conferences this spring and early summer. Stay tuned for reports.

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Executive Vice President Philip Duvic announced after a twelve-year tenure that Cassey Gibson departed from our AWI team on April 12, 2019. Going forward, Ms. Gibson is pursuing other career opportunities at INNERGY. “We will miss Cassey as a key staff member and wish her continued success in all her future career endeavors. Her contributions to AWI and membership have been superlative and her continuous achievements for AWI excellence served as an inspiration to the entire professional staff team,” Phil said.

With Ms. Gibson’s departure, AWI’s professional staff has been re-aligned and will continue to meet the needs of our association, its membership and in the delivery of AWI’s initiatives and services. Katie Allen will assume the EVP’s #2 staff leadership position as director of marketing and membership.

Marketing and Communication initiatives continue under Ms. Allen’s oversight of NewsBriefs, eBriefs, and the AWI Sponsorship Program. Supporting team member roles include Taylor Shaughnessy as AWI membership manager, Margaret Fisher continues in Architectural Outreach Relations and will oversee Design Solutions submittals and coordination. Christen Jones continues as community relations manager, working with AWI Chapters, and assumes the role of Trade Show Logistics management and AWI Best Practice Group management. Cheryl Stratos continues in AWI Sponsorship and Advertising relations, and Cheryl Hollins continues in her role of NewsBriefs and e-briefs editor with support from Cyndie Widmer as graphics and AWI brand designer.

AWI Education, Training and Networking initiatives continue under Doug Hague’s oversight and management along with Sue Sicilian as our #2 AWI Education and Networking team member. As education director, Doug and his team continue their work on AWI’s new Digital Learning Platform which is scheduled to launch in the second quarter of 2019. “The Education and Networking team continues to deliver excellence in industry specific education and training through the AWI Education Outreach Program, Spring Leadership Conference and the AWI Annual Convention,” Phil noted.

Standards Development and Testing programs continue under Ashley Goodin as director and include oversight and management of the AWI Technical Committee’s work and the AWI National Testing Center (NTC). Cheri Derrmyre continues as Mr. Goodin’s supporting #2 staff member. Other standards development staff include Michael Murray as standards editor and Jairus Whitley as standards graphics editor. In Testing, Emory Burmeister continues as NTC testing sales manager and is supported by NTC team members Travis Goodman as lab manager and Johnny Mack as lab associate. Rex Chappell continues in his role of NTC data quality management and IT infrastructure oversight.

AWI Accounting staff continue to report to the EVP and in supporting roles are Meredith Dorey in Accounts Receivable, and Barbara Wert AWI Accounts Payable manager. “Our AWI Accounting staff works diligently and continues to ensure accuracy in AWI financial records and the accounting process as evidenced in AWI’s Annual Audit process,” Phil said.

AWI member inquires, suggestions, comments, questions or concerns regarding the AWI professional staff may be addressed directly to Executive Vice President Philip Duvic at pduvic@awinet.org or 571-323-3621.
In the development of the new standard, AWI is working to broaden the perspective of architectural woodwork through case-work component performance criteria that benefit both the industry and end users. The AWI 0641 – Architectural Wood Casework Standard is designed to give specifiers and manufacturers creative design freedom without compromising the finished product’s performance, stimulating innovation and new product applications within the architectural woodwork industry. This will also allow industry professionals to maintain direct control over the finished product’s aesthetic qualities and the expected structural performance of the assembled product.

Online Access
The AWI 0641 – Architectural Wood Casework draft is available for public comment at www.awinet.org. To submit comments regarding the draft, see the 0641 Public Comment Response Form, available at www.awinet.org.

Final Steps
Pending the results of the ANSI canvass process, the AWI 0641 - Architectural Wood Casework Standard is expected to be published in the fall of 2019. The final document will be made available to architectural woodwork industry professionals through www.awinet.org for a minimum of 45 days prior to the standard’s effective date. On the standard’s effective date, AWI 0641 – Architectural Wood Casework will supersede section 10 of Architectural Woodwork Standards, Edition 2, 2014.

QCC to Explore ISO Accreditation, Increase Marketing Resources
By Randy Estabrook, AWI QCC Executive Director

The AWI Quality Certification Corporation (QCC) Board of Directors met on April 4 in New Orleans, LA, and among the agenda items were its strategic plans regarding the new ANSI / AWI Standards.

In view of the new ANSI / AWI Standards for casework entering the canvas comment period the QCC board requested that all architects and woodworking firms in the QCP database be notified via Quality Review of the opportunity for review and comment. The QCC board also discussed ISO (International Organization for Standardization) accreditation for QCC in order to provide verification audits for firms that submit their casework for testing. Tested casework may require annual audits to maintain status, and QCC plans to be among those providing audits.

The QCC board also approved a significant increase in marketing resources in order to manage awareness about AWI’s new testing services and how these will NOT replace the Quality Certification Program (QCP). New marketing channels will include Hanley Wood’s native advertising vehicles as well as podcasts to target over 90,000 design professionals.

About QCP

The AWI Quality Certification Program (QCP) is a valuable quality assurance tool for interior architectural woodwork, one of the most highly visible aspects of many construction projects. QCP assesses whether the millwork provided meets the project’s specifications and industry standards. The American Subcontractors Association (ASA) endorses the QCP. www.awiqcp.org

First Four AWI Standards Accessible Online

- ANSI/AWI 0620-2018 Finish Carpentry Standard
  The updated standard focuses heavily upon the structural integrity of architectural woodwork and related interior finishes, as opposed to presenting prescriptive requirements. The ANSI / AWI 0620-2018 Finish Carpentry Standard takes the place of the Installation portions near the end of each section of the Architectural Woodwork Standards, Edition 2, 2014 (AWS2).

- Three non-ANSI primer standards: AWI 100 – Submittals; AWI 200 – Care & Storage; and AWI 300 – Materials
  These new standards will supersede their respective sections of the AWS2. AWI 100 – Submittals will be taking the place of the requirements in Section 1 of the AWS2, while AWI 200 – Care & Storage will replace the requirements set forth in Section 2 of the AWS2. Section 3 of the AWS2 will be replaced by AWI 300 – Materials.
  These documents, which became effective on March 15, 2019, are available online at www.awinet.org.

- Standard’s Goal
  In the development of the new standard, AWI is working to broaden the perspective of architectural woodwork through case-work component performance criteria that benefit both the industry and end users. The AWI 0641 – Architectural Wood Casework Standard is designed to give specifiers and manufacturers creative design freedom without compromising the finished product’s performance, stimulating innovation and new product applications within the architectural woodwork industry. This will also allow industry professionals to maintain direct control over the finished product’s aesthetic qualities and the expected structural performance of the assembled product.

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- Founded in 1918, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system. www.ansi.org
**Standard Draft with Technical Committee approval**

This draft, developed by AWI Professional Staff, goes through a review and editing process by the AWI Technical Committee in order to ensure that the information presented is up-to-date and accurate, and that it best meets the needs of AWI’s member organizations. The draft must have the approval of the Technical Committee before it can be submitted for canvass.

**Development of Canvass List**

The selection process consists of a 15-day Pre-Canvass Interest Survey administered in such a way as to promote balance and consensus. The Canvass List is comprised of representatives of organizations and individuals who have agreed to participate. Each interest category must have no less than 20% and no more than 45% representation in the list as a whole.

**BSR 8**

A BSR 8 is filed with the ANSI Board of Standards Review and includes the Canvass List and Technical Committee-approved Standard Draft. The Canvass List and Standard Draft must be made available via ANSI Standards Action.

**Conduct of Canvass**

The Canvass consists of a 30-day Public Comment Period and a 45-day Voting Period, both of which run concurrently. At any point during the Public Comment Period, a sustained objection may result in the addition of a party to the Canvass List, extending the Voting Period by up to an additional 45 days. At the close of the Canvass, over half of the Canvass List must have voted. An extension of up to 30 days may be granted to any canvassee at the discretion of the administrator.

**Consideration of Views and Objections**

Over a 45-day period, the AWI Professional Staff compiles comments, views, and objections; the Technical Committee reviews these views and objections and responds to canvassees. All views and objections must be addressed within 30 days. AWI Professional Staff and the Technical Committee then revise the Standard Draft accordingly. Unresolved objections, attempts at resolution, and any substantive changes must be reported to the consensus body in writing.

**BSR 9**

A BSR 9 is filed with the ANSI Board of Standards Review and begins the 45-day Final Action Process. This process confirms that applicable procedures were followed and that all appeal actions have been completed. Once the Standard is confirmed in the BSR 9, it receives ANSI Approval. AWI must take action to reaffirm or revise the standard within five years of the last approval date.

**ANSI Timeframe by Number of Canvass Periods**

**150-195 days** – 1 Canvass period  
**240-330 days** – 2 Canvass periods  
**330-465 days** – 3 Canvass periods

This timeframe spans from preparation of the Canvass List to Final Action. This timeframe does not include development of the Standard Draft or any potential appeals.
By all measurements, the AWI Spring Leadership Conference, March 31 – April 2, in New Orleans was a success. Attendance exceeded the goal of 100 by 30, exclusive of speakers. Student participation increased from 11 in 2018 to 25 in 2019. Attendee surveys reveal high satisfaction with the speaker lineup. In addition, the Student Sponsorship program rose by 320%.

“We had a 83 Net Promoter Score® for the conference,” AWI Education Director Doug Hague advised. (The NPS® measures customer experience and predicts business growth. This proven metric transformed the business world and now provides the core measurement for customer experience management programs the world round.)

As one attendee wrote, “It was a great event and very much worthwhile with good content.” Apart from accolades for the speakers, attendees loved the Mardi Gras World team building event where AWI members made masks. “Who knew I would love glitter?” one attendee was heard to say.

“We are grateful to our members for attending the conference, for taking time from their business to part of this successful event. The bar continues to rise for us to surpass previous year’s events and continue to exceed expectations,” Doug said.

“We remind our members that leadership is continuous, both in verbal and nonverbal expression. We hope that attendees are putting the inspiration gained from our speakers and practical tips for success into action when they returned home.”

AWI is grateful to the 32 organizations and individuals (a 320% increase) for their generous financial support of students who attended the AWI Spring Leadership Conference in New Orleans and for injecting enthusiasm into the 25 students about architectural woodwork as an exciting career path. “We thank attendees for their tremendous support of the industry and for applying their resources towards workforce development. Our members and affiliated organizations turned from complaining about workforce limitations and took the opportunity to address the need to perpetuate our industry in a positive way,” Doug said.

This year the student participation was more diverse with four different institutions represented: a four-year university, a technical college, and two high schools.

AWI THanks student sponsors

AWI Quality Certification Corporation *
CSI Little Rock Chapter *
Tony Aubin
Aubin Woodworking, Inc.
Nick Brown
Conley Caseworks
Tyler Cerny
Strata Design
Mike Coticchio
Cain Millwork, Inc.
Kristine Cox
Rowland Woodworking, Inc.
Sebastien DesMarais
Hollywood Woodwork, Inc.
Ann Duebner
VT Industries - Eggers Division
Philip Duvic
Architectural Woodwork Institute
Dustin Giffin
Giffin Interior & Fixture
Katie Johnson
Riverside Construction Services, Inc.
Bob Krejci
Riverside Construction Services, Inc.
Lynne Leach
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John Leininger Leininger
Cabinet & Woodworking, Inc.
Dallas Lemon
Custom Source Woodworking, Inc.
Dave McDonald
Riverside Construction Services, Inc.
Michael R. McNulty, Sr.**
Lutz Woodworks, LLC
David Perrier
Cabinets by Perrier
Sandra Pierce
Phoenix Woodworking Corporation
Luke Remmert
Remmert & Company
Wade Thaxton
Flexible Materials, Inc.

* Sponsored five students    ** Sponsored three students
Do you react to fires every day? Does the phone control the next hour? Is there frustration at your client/job meetings? Come learn skills to take more control of your project!

Where? At the AWI Project Management Seminar, hosted by the AWI Great Lakes Chapter, Sept. 5-6, in Grand Rapids, MI.

Project management is supposed to make your life easier. Acquire tools that allow you to find balance between contractor, architect, resources and manpower. Become the most knowledgeable person about your project. This recently updated program is presented by industry peers with considerable experience in project management of varying size projects for diverse companies.

**KEY PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- The Hand-off
- Contracts and Purchase Orders
- Cash Flow, Invoicing and Draws
- Project Planning
- Shop Drawings and Submittals
- Project Management during Production
- Purchasing and Outsourcing
- Project Scheduling
- Change Orders and Back Charges
- Time Management
- Job Costing and Financial Statements
- Delivery, Installation, Damages and Shortages
- Care and Storage
- Close-out Documents and Project Wrap-up
- Communications and Conflict Resolution
- Implementation / Q&A

Registration is open at www.awi.org

"To me this conference was a real discovery. It was my first time in any of the activities organized by AWI, and it was good to know that the AWI is much more than simply a logo. Meeting people working in the same field and eager to share knowledge and experience with unknown guys like myself made my trip to New Orleans very valuable." — Gustavo Grynszpan, Design Engineer, CiF Lab Solutions LP
The Woodwork Career Alliance of North America (WCA) welcomes Bruce Spitz to the WCA Board of Directors.

Spitz, owner of Classic Millwork & Products of El Paso, TX, has a long history of leadership and activism with the Architectural Woodwork Institute. He is the immediate past president of the AWI and is immediate past chairman of the AWI Quality Certification Corporation. He has also served four years as AWI treasurer and a long list of committees, including chairing the AWI Education Committee.

“As a business owner, I’m concerned about the availability of a skilled workforce for our industry,” Spitz said. “Through my involvement on the AWI Board of Directors, I have had a chance to work with the WCA and watch it develop a credentialing program that can help us develop the next generation of woodworkers.”

“We’re thrilled to have Bruce on the board,” said Scott Nelson, president of the WCA. “He has been supportive of the WCA since the beginning and has created an apprenticeship program for his own business that could be very instructional for a lot of woodworking companies looking for ways to sustain a skilled workforce.”

Spitz joins the WCA Board of Directors that includes: Duane Griffiths, chairman, retired president Stiles University; Thomas Allott, manager, Stiles University; Brian Bond, professor of sustainable biomaterials, Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Kristine Cox (AWI President – 2017), vice president, Rowland Woodworking; Kent Gilchrist, director of operations, Purposeful Design; Greg Heuer, retired director of education of the AWI; Greg Larson, owner/director of New England School of Architectural Woodworking; Scott Markwood, sales representative, Häfele America; Mick McGowan, cabinetmaking instructor, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology; and Patrick Molzahn, program director of Cabinetmaking and Millwork, Madison Area Technical College.

The Woodwork Career Alliance of North America was founded in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is governed by a volunteer board of directors. The WCA’s mission is to develop and administer a unified set of Skill Standards for the wood products industry. Since 2011, WCA has developed observable and measurable performance standards and assessments for more than 240 woodworking machine operations. In addition, WCA has issued more than 2,500 credentials, a portable, personal permanent record documenting each holder’s record of woodworking skill achievements. More than 100 high schools and post-secondary schools throughout North America are WCA EDUCation™ members. To learn more about the WCA and how to get involved with its programs, including sponsorship opportunities, visit www.WoodworkCareer.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

67th AWI Annual Convention
October 6-8, 2019
Omni Providence Hotel
Providence, Rhode Island

AWI SETS THE STANDARD!

Fall in Providence, RI at Williams Park.

Photo courtesy of N. Millard/GoProvidence.com