Chicago’s Goal: Chapter of the Year

And they seized it! Celebrating its 54th anniversary this year, the Chicago Chapter set out to win the coveted “Chapter of the Year” honor in 2019. The chapter will be officially honored next month during the 67th AWI Annual Convention, Oct. 6-8 in Providence, RI.

What is the secret of their success? Beating out three other 2019 Distinguished Chapters: Great Lakes, Heart of America and Washington, the AWI Chicago Chapter strategically amassed points in the 2019 Distinguished Chapter program and gained the highest AWI chapter honors.

“The Chicago Chapter board member Derek Goodwin of Star Moulding functions as Director of Distinguished Chapter and together with Chapter Secretary and board member Kim Alsup of Cain Millwork (who formerly held Derek’s title) focused on winning 2019 honors by earning the required points,” said Chapter President Mike Coticchio of Cain Millwork. “Their sole responsibility was to think strategically to earn points while conducting programs and chapter business.” It paid off!

In fact, one of the strengths of the long-standing AWI chapter is that each of the 14 members of its Board of Directors is responsible

(39 AWI Members Nab Safety Awards)

For the first time in at least four years, FOUR AWI Manufacturing Members will be awarded the highest honors in the Annual AWI / Federated Insurance Safety Awards Program. This year, 39 firms in all will be recognized for making safety a priority in the plant and on project sites. Presentation of Best Safety Achievement Awards will take place after the Annual Meeting on Oct. 7 at the 67th AWI Annual Convention in Providence, RI.

For the 2019 AWI / Federated Insurance Safety Awards Competition, each of the following four member companies were singled out for their exemplary commitment to safety in their business size categories.

The May 10, 2019 Day at the Races was a fun-filled day for AWI Chicago Chapter members.

(What’s Inside)
In collaboration with the Stairbuilders and Manufacturers Association (SMA), the AWI standards development team has been making steady progress on the upcoming AWI/SMA 0643 – Wood-Stair, Handrail, and Guard Systems Standard.

STANDARDS

Similar to other standards that AWI has been in the process of developing over the past two years, the AWI/SMA 0643 – Wood-Stair, Handrail, and Guard Systems Standard differentiates between structural and aesthetic requirements for stair systems, ensuring that industry professionals have the ability to tailor the product to their specific needs. In contrast to other standards recently developed by AWI, the proposed AWI/SMA 0643 – Wood-Stair, Handrail, and Guard Systems Standard will include a separate Installation section, to be used by stair system installers in the field.

Regarding the development of the standard, Terra Erb, Executive Director of the SMA stated, “The SMA is thrilled to be joining forces with AWI to create a standard for stairs, handrails and guards that aims to provide clarity across the spectrum. The proposed standard will aid in ensuring all involved in the stair design process, from planning to execution, are aware of the standard for stair creation. This clarity will allow for streamlined processes and increased customer satisfaction as all design members work from the same standard.”

Doug Adams, chair of the SMA Quality Standards Committee, also commented on the upcoming standard, stating, “With the competitive nature of the stair industry it is more important than ever that our bids are accurate and correct. The new standard will level the playing field and ensure that the bid specifications on materials and joinery are equal.”

“In the past, the stair industry has not had a relevant guide to follow,” Adams continued. “This new standard will help all of us to be able to build to the same specifications that are known acceptable and approved practices. Personally, the process of creating this document has been very fulfilling for me. Meeting with industry leaders from around the country has allowed me to further my knowledge of stair building. A big thank you to the collaboration efforts of AWI and the SMA. Without their joint efforts, we would not be nearing the finish line with the completion and, hopefully, the implementation of the AWI/SMA 0643 – Wood-Stair, Handrail, and Guard Systems Standard.”

The proposed standard is expected to begin the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) adoption process in the fall of 2019.

The Stairway Manufacturers’ Association was formed in 1988 to insure the growth and prosperity of the group’s industry and craft. In 2014 the name of the association was changed to the Stairbuilders and Manufacturers Association to more clearly reflect its constituency of more than 70% professional Stairbuilding companies from the smallest one-man shops to those among the largest in the industry. SMA’s Mission is: Building the greatest resource of knowledge and tools contributing to the success of our members and the stair industry.
Official Notice: 2019 AWI Annual Membership Meeting

“In accordance with AWI Bylaws Article X, Sec. 2, written notice of the time and place of the 2019 AWI Annual Membership Meeting is provided to AWI members not less than 20 (twenty) or more than 60 (sixty) days prior to the business meeting,” AWI Executive Vice President Phil Duvic announced.

Monday, Oct. 7, 2019
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm (ET)
Omni Providence Hotel
1 W. Exchange Street
Providence, RI 02903

Any one (1) individual who is the AWI Liaison of record for each AWI Manufacturing Member Company shall be entitled to one (1) vote on any association matter that might be called to question before the membership assembly.

New AWI Members

**MANUFACTURERS**

ALKMY, LLC
Norcross, GA

National Furniture and Decoration Factory
Doha, Qatar

**SUPPLIER**

Cienapps Smart Woodworking
Prevost, QC, Canada

Note: These new members joined AWI in July 2019.

Use the online Directory of AWI Manufacturing and Supplier Members at www.awinet.org for contact information and access to the websites of these and other AWI members. The resource is open 24/7 for use in seeking manufacturers and suppliers of architectural woodwork.
for some aspect of operations. (See board list on page 5.) “Our large board is definitely unusual among AWI’s 19 chapters. It allows us to share responsibilities and build ownership. I would match our board against all other chapters; our members are dedicated and on top of their tasks,” Mike said.

The strength of the Chicago Chapter resides in the cohesiveness among the members. “Our programming speaks to our members’ desire to network among friends and competitors alike. Over the years we’ve learned and responded to our members’ expectations about chapter membership. They embody our Vision — to strengthen and grow the connection between, wood, our members and the world. Networking is why our member retention rate is healthy and attendance at events is impressive.” Event attendance ranges from 65 to 140.

Their sole responsibility was to think strategically to earn points while conducting programs and chapter business. IT PAID OFF!

The chapter currently has 14 Manufacturing Members and 41 Supplier Members. “While some members come and go, the numbers remain stable due to the camaraderie among our members,” Mike said.

For the August 2018 through July 2019 Distinguished Chapter Program, the chapter conducted five events, with one also including an educational component, and each was structured to enable members to network.

**Chicago Chapter Events**

**Aug. 8, 2018**
Architectural Boat Tour at Riverside Gardens & Happy Hour

**Nov. 8, 2018**
Mingling & Member Tabletop Trade Show

**March 21, 2019**
March Madness Networking Happy Hour
Presentation: “Learn about AWI’s New Standards & How They Will Apply to You”

**May 3, 2019**
A Day at the Races

**June 13, 2019**
Annual Golf Outing

AWI congratulates the Chicago Chapter as the 2019 AWI Chapter of the Year. “The chapter’s members are always full of life, and the chapter is diligent in submitting reports on a monthly basis for use towards the Distinguished Chapter award,” said AWI Community Relations Manager Christen Jones. “We also applaud the Great Lakes, Heart of America and Washington Chapters for their diligence and dedication as 2019 Distinguished Chapters.” Good work!

Thanks for your continued involvement and service to architectural woodworkers and suppliers in your regions.

Mike Coticchio is Vice President - Operations at Cain Millwork, Inc. in Rochelle, IL. In 2017, Mike was elected to serve as President of the Chicago Chapter. The 25-year+ industry veteran started his architectural woodwork industry career by attending the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Apprentice Program for four years where he was instructed by master journeymen from all over the world. This was the start of more than two decades of hands-on experience in every department of production, followed by drafting, estimating and eventually project management. With his knowledge and experiences, Mike advanced into his current role overseeing all operational aspects of Cain Millwork. Many of Mike’s commercial, residential, hospitality, retail and yacht projects have been awarded accolades for their architectural and design prominence. He is the Chapter Officer Council Delegate to AWI National’s Board of Directors, and a member of the AWI Speakers Bureau. Cain Millwork is a QCP Licensee.
CHICAGO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

President
Mike Coticchio, Cain Millwork, Inc.

Vice President
Samantha Parenti, Parenti and Raffaelli, LTD

Past President/Director of Golf Outing
Chris Farrell, Inter Ocean Cabinet Company

Director of Programs & Food & Beverage
Liz Ingebrigtsen, Sprovieri’s Custom Counters, Inc.

Secretary
Kim Alsup, Cain Millwork, Inc.

Treasurer
Mark Jardon, Exact Automation

Senior Advisor & National Liaison
Ken Kamien, Inter Ocean Cabinet Company

Director of Social Media/Swag
(Swag: cool stuff with the chapter’s logo on it.)
Evan Hogan, Siteline Interior Carpentry, Inc.

Director of Education
Jason Horn, Charles Horn Lumber Company

Director of Membership
Pat McAvoy, Sierra Forest Products

Assistant Director: Food & Beverage
Dan Levin, Cain Millwork, Inc.

Assistant Director: Design/Architectural Liaison
Dan Warren, Häfele

Assistant Director
Will Huber, Huber Cabinet Work

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ATTENTION CHAPTER LEADERS!

AWI invites all chapter leaders to attend the Chapter Officer Council (COC) scheduled during the 67th AWI Annual Convention in Providence, RI.

Chapter Officer Council
Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019 • 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Omni Providence Hotel, Providence, RI

COC Chair Seth Erlandson of Handorn, Inc. and Vice Chair Liz Ingebrigtsen of Sprovieri’s Custom Counters will co-perside over a full program about AWI resources that can help chapters strengthen their programs, enhance membership value, and boost attendance at local events. Among the scheduled presentations are: Education Task Force Results & Portal Time Frame by AWI Director of Education Doug Hague, Standards Update by AWI Technical Director Ashley Goodin, and Joint Programs with CSI and AIA Chapters by AWI Communication Outreach Specialist Margaret Fisher.

Plan to attend. Register at www.awinet.org.

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With their unique interpretation of A Day at the Races attire, are (l to r) Cain Millwork personnel Mike Coticchio, Tom Karbarz, Kim Alsup, Tony Matheny, and Dan Levin. The group participated in a costume contest that day and won Second Place bragging rights.

Chicago Chapter members Anna Kamien, Chris Farrell and Ken Kamien were dressed for A Day at the Races.

All photos courtesy of AWI Chicago Chapter
Thirty-nine member companies competed for two other safety awards that recognize the value the honorees place on plant and jobsite safety evidenced by their firm’s safety records.

The program awards are based on a company’s Incident Rate. The Incident Rate is a nationally recognized measure of safety and equalizes the Accident Rate for all sizes of firms. The Incident Rate represents the number of reportable injury workday cases for 100 employees per year working 40 hours per week for 50 weeks per year.

**Zero Lost Time Accident Achievement Award**

**Less than 10,000 Hours**
YFI Millworks, Inc.

**10,000 to 19,999 Hours**
Division 6 dba Royal Custom Cabinets

**Fetzer’s Inc.**
More than 100,000 Hours

**20,000 to 99,999 Hours**
Acacia Originals, LLC
Andy’s Cabinets and Millwork, Inc.
Cabinet Kraftsmen Specialties
Cherryworks, Ltd.
Commercial Millworks, Inc.
E. B. Endres, Inc.
Environs Architectural Millwork, LLC
Hansen & Company Woodworks, Inc.
Interior Wood Specialties, Inc.
Jackson Woodworks, Inc.

**More than 100,000 Hours**
Brochsteins
CCI GROUP
Cohen Architectural Woodworking
Digital Fabrication Workshop, Inc.
Fetzer’s Inc.
FADCO, Inc.

Honorees can use the awards to recognize their employees and the team efforts that contributed to safe working conditions. The awards can also stimulate employees to maintain and surpass their existing safety records. Congratulations to all.
With the release of the new AWI-100 Submittals, AWI-200 Care and Storage, AWI-300 Materials and ANSI AWI 0620-2018 Finish Carpentry/Installation Standard, the Quality Certification Program (QCP) test has been revised to incorporate these supplanted Architectural Woodwork Standards (AWS) sections for use on QCP projects bid after March 15, 2019.

All licensed companies have been sent instructions to complete testing on these new sections by Feb. 15, 2020.


In other news, the AWI Quality Certification Program (QCP) has activated a zip code radius search tool under “Find a QCP Firm” to aid website visitors in locating licensed firms at www.awiqcp.org.

Visitors can now enter a zip code and choose up to a 250-mile radius to locate firms that are currently licensed in the Quality Certification Program. “This tool will add additional value to the most visited page on the AWI QCP website,” said Quality Certification Corporation (QCC) Chair Zach Deas of Deas Millwork Company.

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

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**SkillsUSA: Champions at Work!**

The August edition of *NewsBriefs* reported on the 2019 SkillsUSA Cabinetmaking Championships in June in Louisville, KY. See more of the competitors who worked for eight hours building a cabinet. Many of the 62 competitors met the rigorous challenge of applying their hard and soft skills to finish the project, six of whom received awards.

Many of the 62 competitors met the rigorous challenge of applying their hard and soft skills to finish the project, six of whom received awards.

Photo courtesy of Doug Hague
The 2019 AWI President’s Dinner will take place Oct. 7 at the impressive Herreshoff Marine Museum overlooking Bristol Harbor. The museum is dedicated to the history of the America’s Cup and the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company (1878-1945), which notably produced fast sailing yachts, including eight America’s Cup defenders, and steam-powered vessels. Enjoy cocktails in the museum on the grounds where the manufacturing company once stood. Gaze at the collection of over 60 boats including Nathanael Greene Herreshoff’s Clara, built in 1887, Harold Vanderbilt’s Trivia, and the 1992 ACC yacht, Defiant. Enjoy yourself among friends and offer good wishes to Executive VP Phil Duvic as he nears retirement on Dec. 31.

Bring your spouse to the AWI Convention, where there is much to see and do, including two special events arranged by AWI. A Riverboat Tour on Oct. 7 offers stunning views of interesting architecture that will end with lunch at a local restaurant, Hemenway’s. (Tour is subject to weather and capacity limit.) Spouses also will enjoy a Culinary Tour on Oct. 8.

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NEW!
CONTRACTS SEMINAR *
Oct. 9, 2019
Providence, RI
Visit www.awinet.org for information and registration.
* Those also attending our annual convention will receive a refund for their Contracts Registration after completing the seminar.