

MORE NEW AWI STANDARDS ADVANCING

Out

of **nine remaining AWI Standards on the plate** of the AWI Technical

Committee for development in 2021, three are currently at various stages of the ANSI process and expected to be completed and approved this year. Another six are in line for development efforts by the AWI Technical Committee later this year.

Stair Standard

As announced in the April edition of *NewsBriefs*, **ANSI / AWI SMA 0643-2021 – Wood Stair, Handrail, and Guard Systems Standard** has

completed the entire development, vetting and ANSI process with approval by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on March 1, 2021. **What remains** is printing of the Standard, posting on the websites of AWI and the Stairbuilders and Manufacturers Association (SMA), and an effective date that relates to its accessibility. At our press time, a proposed effective date is nearly final.

Countertops Standard

“There is just a little more work to be done in the ANSI process before AWI Standard 1236 – Countertops is expected to be approved,” said AWI

Technical Director Hunter Morrison. “Feedback from the canvass and public comment periods have already been received by the AWI Technical Committee, which is addressing the issues raised with each commentator. Presuming there is agreement with the committee’s resolution of proposed changes, the Countertops Standard will enter the final process of securing ANSI approval and final action.”

The proposed Standard’s scope includes: engineered and natural

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AWI Best Practice Groups: *What Makes Them Deliver?*

“I have gained more out of the Best Practice Group (BPG) Program than almost anything else AWI offers,” according to **Dustin Giffin of Giffin Interior & Fixture (BPG #10)**. **Ted Robinson of Technique Manufacturing** agreed saying, “The Best Practice Groups are the best thing that has happened in AWI.” **Why?**, *NewsBriefs* wonders.

Their comments took place during a **Friday Family Gathering (FFG) conducted on Feb. 19** about AWI BPGs, when seven panelists shared views about their participation in

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these small forums established in 2005 for top level executives associated with AWI Manufacturing Members. Ably led by **moderator Dustin Giffin**, who is also Vice President of AWI, the spirited FFG discussion led the panelists to share highlights of their groups.

The following synopsis reveals many of the answers to **why the BPGs are so successful** with many maintaining a robust meeting schedule since the group’s founding.

Pre-COVID General Format

BPG members typically tour the shop of the host, who rotates among the

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BUSINESS MATTERS

AWI BEST PRACTICE GROUPS (cont. from page 1)

members for each two-day gathering. **John Leininger of Leininger Cabinet & Woodworking** (BPG #3) noted that “we seriously look at each person’s problem and offer suggestions. For example, one member had a particularly challenging problem with a partner about which we offered suggestions for resolution.”

WE PUSHED EACH OTHER TO TAKE ACTION.

Both John and **Joe Wadsworth of Custom Source Woodworking** (Virtual BPG) affirmed the value of accountability within their groups. “We pushed each other to take action,” which Dustin confirmed contributes to the maximum return on time spent at the meeting.

“We typically meet at a hotel,” Ted said, “and have evolved since our founding in 2008 to meet at destination sites.” “While the tours of BPG member host facilities remain a part of our group (BPG #10 – Next Gen II), it has been interesting to see the changes within our group’s companies,” said AWI President, **Sebastien DesMarais of Hollywood Woodwork**. “During our shop tours, we dig deeper than in a more typical AW Plant Tour.”

DURING OUR SHOP TOURS, WE DIG DEEPER THAN IN A MORE TYPICAL ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORK PLANT TOUR.

Comradery / Socialization

“For our Women’s BPG (#13), we carve out some time for something personal,”

FOR OUR WOMEN’S BPG, WE CARVE OUT SOME TIME FOR SOMETHING PERSONAL. THIS HELPS TO FORM A BOND AMONG GROUP MEMBERS...

said AWI Past President **Kristine Cox of Rowland Woodworking**. “This helps to form a bond among group members, which continues apart from the BPG meetings, such as correspondence via email.” She added that BPG #13 often convenes at AWI Chapter meetings and at AWI Spring Leadership Conferences. **Chris Buell of Wright Architectural Millwork** (BPG #10) said their group has added sports activities. John confirmed that the chemistry among members of his BPG enhanced the friendships that grew over time.

THE FOCUS AND SKILLS OF EACH MEMBER COMPANY ARE COMPLIMENTARY RATHER THAN COMPETITIVE.

Non-Competitive Members

Aman Bajwa of Kambium, Inc. (BPG #5) noted that although his group is “somewhat segregated by region the focus and skills of each member company are complimentary rather than competitive.” BPG #13 includes some members geographically nearby but they are not directly competitive.

Collaborative Business

A by-product of the BPGs can be partnering with members on a business project, according to Joe. **More than one-half of the panelists have performed work for members of their BPG.** John singled out a huge, time-sensitive project his group did in collaboration with another BPG member, Conley Caseworks. Sebastien said, “Each region and market has its highs and lows. Currently three of our BBG members are helping Hollywood

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY & OPPORTUNITY TO GET MUCH MORE IN-DEPTH WITH CURRENT ISSUES; MORE FOCUSED FEEDBACK ... YOUR SUPPORT GROUP IS ONE PHONE CALL OR EMAIL AWAY.

Woodwork with a project. We balance each other’s business, and I am confident about sharing the job, because we know the work of our BPG partners. **Collaboration is a huge benefit.”**

Chapters vs. BPGs

“Best Practice Groups and AWI Chapters work in a similar fashion, but I think they have more differences than similarities. While there is an opportunity for sharing in a chapter setting, it is less structured and detailed as you find in a BPG. In your BPG you have a dedicated group where you have the ability and opportunity to get much more in-depth with current issues; more focused feedback; and the knowledge that your support group is

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2021 AWI PARTNERS

AWI thanks the 26 members listed at right and welcomes them to the new AWI Partner Program. Their additional support throughout the year helps to fund the association’s programs, publications and other services for members. AWI Manufacturing Members are encouraged to connect with these partners anytime at www.awinet.org whenever a need arises for their services. To learn more about the program for AWI members contact AWI Director of Marketing & Membership Katie Allen at kallen@awinet.org.

Premiere Partners



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ACUSTIC & ARCHITECTURAL
WALLS, CEILING, DOORS & PARTNER



MORE NEW AWI STANDARDS ADVANCING (cont. from page 1)

stone, solid surface, phenolic, decorative laminate, solid and veneered wood, and epoxy resin. Standard 1236 was developed based on information from industry experience, the *Architectural Woodwork Standards, Edition 2* (2014), and from input by industry manufacturers and other specialists, according to Hunter. No Duty Levels are required in this Standard; however, there are requirements relating to structural and aesthetic performance. For this Standard, the canvass and public comment periods occurred simultaneously in accordance with ANSI procedures for standards development. "If all proceeds as anticipated, a Countertops Standard should be approved by ANSI, and published with an effective date by the end of 2021," Hunter said.

Finishing Standard

Next up is a Finishing Standard which is currently in development by the AWI Technical Committee. As soon as the remaining members of the canvass group are identified to balance its composition (which is imminent), this draft standard will make its way through the ANSI process. As with all standards development, the process requires openness, balance, consensus, and due process.

This proposed Standard's scope is to provide standardized objective criteria for the evaluation of the performance and aesthetic attributes of coatings applied to architectural woodwork and related interior products.

STANDARDS

This Standard will assist in the clear communication of expectations of a coating technology between the manufacturer, woodworker, specifier, architect, and end user for factory applied coatings. The standard provides specific criterion for coating technologies performance and aesthetic qualities to be evaluated. These criteria will allow variations in application techniques and chemistry to be compared equally with other finish technologies in the factory finishing of wood products.

"It's difficult to anticipate the length of the ANSI process which should be begin soon, because there are too many variables. My best conservative estimate at this point in time for completion, approval by ANSI, publication and an effective date is early next year," Hunter said.

Other Standards

A proposed **Wall, Ceiling Surfacing & Partitions Standard** (to be titled Wood Paneling), is in line for development by the AWI Technical Committee, followed by a **Millwork Standard**.

The remaining proposed Standards in no particular order for development are: Wood Trim, Wood Frames, Integrated Door Opening Assemblies, and Specialty Casework.

The goal is to gain ANSI approval, publish, and identify an effective date for the remaining standards by 2022. Stay tuned to *NewsBriefs* for progress reports as developments occur. ▽

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SAVE THE DATE!

69TH AWI ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 6-8, 2021
MARGARITAVILLE LAKE RESORT
LAKE CONROE
MONTGOMERY, TEXAS



Photo: Benchmarkresortsandhotel.com

You won't get Jimmy Buffet's song out of your mind when you start planning to attend the 2021 AWI Convention! Put on your flip flops, plan your escape, and set your coordinates to fun and relaxation for Margaritaville Lake Resort, Lake Conroe, Montgomery, Texas. It's the perfect blend of Lake Latitude and Island Attitude.

Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners





WANT EXPOSURE TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS?

There's a way to get exposure for a recent architectural woodwork project, while promoting the benefits of wood to architects, design professionals and specifiers.

AWI members, along with design professionals, contractors and owners, are invited to participate in the AWI Award of Excellence Program (AOE). All winners of the prestigious quarterly recognition have their project published in *Design Solutions* Magazine and those published in AWI's quarterly journal are eligible for consideration for AWI's coveted Standard of Excellence Award bestowed annually.

Design Solutions Magazine is the official journal of the Architectural Woodwork Institute. Each quarterly issue showcases beautiful examples of fine architectural woodwork manufactured by AWI Manufacturing Member companies.

The next project submittal deadline for the AOE Program is August 1, 2021 for the fall issue. Visit www.awinet.org > Publications > Design Solutions for submission forms. Direct your questions to Margaret Fisher at mfisher@awinet.org.



Fall 2020 *Design Solutions*. Ft. Lauderdale's Auberge Beach Residences & Spa. Woodwork by Hollywood Woodwork. Photographer: Isaac Baird

IT'S THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED FOR OUR COMPANY.

AWI BEST PRACTICE GROUPS (cont. from page 2)

one phone call or email away. Having been involved in a local chapter and a BPG, I definitely find both to be a valuable resource," said Kristine.

Virtual Format

Several groups had to meet virtually during the COVID pandemic, while BPG #15 formed in July 2020 is the only group to date that has not met face-to-face. Sebastien proposed that AWI harness the virtual movement and consider formation of focus groups for their Education Outreach teams. "The AWI seminars offer information overload which might evolve into small groups who could meet virtually afterwards as an outgrowth of specific seminar topics."

The FFG on Best Practice Groups ended as it began... "It's the best thing that has happened for our company."

More Information

Several Best Practice Groups are seeking additional members. Numbers 7, 5, 6, 13 and 15 are interested in accepting new members to round out their strength. If you are interested in exploring participation in such a group, contact BPG staff liaison Taylor Shaughnessy at tshaughnessy@awinet.org. The Members Only area of www.awinet.org also has general information about BPG operations as well as a recording of the FFG session on Feb. 19.



AWI NEWS

New AWI Members

MANUFACTURERS

CIRCLE C MILLWORK, INC.
SAN ANTONIO, TX

COASTLINE CABINETRY &
CUSTOM MILLWORK, LLC
FORT MYERS, FL

CUSTOM WOOD PRODUCTS
SAINT MARYS, KS

DIVISION SIX, INC.
CINCINNATI, OH

FURNITURE DESIGN
KNOSSOS, INC.
WOODSIDE, NY

HIRE NELSON COMPANY
ADDISON, IL

HUNTWOOD INDUSTRIES
LIBERTY LAKE, WA

RIDDLEY RETAIL FIXTURES, INC.
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC

TA MILLWORK
KAYSVILLE, UT

WATERHOUSE ARCHITECTURAL
WOODWORK
MIAMI, FL

NOTE: THESE NEW MEMBERS JOINED AWI IN MARCH 2021.

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.

