

The Woodwork Institute hosted a recognition dinner on July 15, 2003, in honor of Phillip “Arnie” Conwell’s retirement. Arnie was a Director of Architectural Services for the Woodwork Institute for 22 years, during which time he performed over 2,800 inspections throughout the Western U.S. In the field, he was well-respected for his knowledge and professionalism.

At the recognition dinner, co-workers and friends talked about their experiences with Arnie and presented him with a commemorative plaque bearing the old and new Woodwork Institute logos. Speakers included Sue Brown, CSI, president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute; Rob Gustafson, Everett Nelms, Andrew Sekeres, Steve Taylor, Angelo Leandro, Dave Thomas, and Ed Hall of the Woodwork Institute; and Mike Hansen, president of the Woodwork Institute.

Arnie retired August 1 and returned to his hometown of Georgetown, Ohio, with his wife Lois to spend time with family.

A Farewell to Arnie Conwell

Photos by Lorne Bell



Woodwork Institute Directors of Architectural Services Dave Thomas, CSI (left) and Angelo Leandro, CSI (right) with Angelo’s wife, Janet.



Joanne Gustafson (left) of Woodwork Institute Associate member firm Homewood, Inc. with Rosemarie Zaiser.



Woodwork Institute President Mike Hansen thanks Arnie during the July 15 recognition dinner



Gary Kebrier, FCSI (left) and Jo Drummond, FCSI, (middle), both past presidents of the Los Angeles chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute, with Heinz Zaiser, past president of the Woodwork Institute.



Everett Nelms of the Woodwork Institute served as emcee for the evening.



The Woodwork Institute presented Arnie with a plaque during the recognition dinner.

Steve Taylor Named Director of Architectural Services for South-Central California Region

Upon the retirement of Arnie Conwell, Steve Taylor was named Woodwork Institute Director of Architectural Services for South-Central California last June. In his new position, Taylor is charged with inspecting millwork products for Woodwork Institute standards and certification, and informing the architectural design community about the advantages of using Institute standards and certification in their specifications.

Taylor has more than 30 years experience in the millwork industry. Most recently, he was vice president of Taylor Brothers Stair Company (formerly Taylor Millwork), a stair and millwork manufacturing company located in Gardena, California.

He joined Taylor Brothers Stair Company in 1970 to become the third generation leader of this family-owned firm, which his grandfather founded in 1927.

“When I was in my own shop, I only saw one kind of work and a limited variety of jobs,” Taylor said. “Now I get to work with other woodworkers and see every imaginable kind of project.”

Taylor received his bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from the University of California, Riverside. He has also completed graduate courses in business at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Born and raised in Southern California, Taylor currently resides in San Pedro, California, with his wife Mara. His daughter, Cynthia, 22, recently graduated from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, and now lives in Philadelphia. Taylor’s son, Stuart, 19, attends Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.



Steve Taylor (left) with Arnie Conwell at a recent LACSI recognition dinner.