

How Would It Feel to Be Number One?

There are many great CWIs, but only one can claim the national title of Dalton E. Hamilton CWI of the Year

BY ROSS HANCOCK

This column is intended to be a forum for discussing the workings of the Examination Bank Subcommittee of the American Welding Society Certification Committee. We solicit your questions and comments about certification, examination questions, challenges, protocol, or other related certification subjects. They can be mailed to AWS, 550 NW LeJeune Rd., Miami, FL 33126, or e-mailed to mjohansen@aws.org.

It's the Super Bowl ring of welding inspection, the grail sought by those who don't just want to excel, they hunger to dominate.

Chances are, you don't have what it takes to earn the national Dalton E. Hamilton Certified Welding Inspector of the Year Award. Few do. But if you want to prove that you have the spirit to rise above the rest, the race to victory starts *now*.

Only 14 CWIs have grasped the national title since 1988, when the first recipient was recognized. About 300 CWIs have

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received the Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year award on the Section and District levels.

For each of those proven worthy, the award is confirmation to all of the honoree's superior performance and special contributions to the field of welding inspection.

The award was instituted by the American Welding Society's Certification Committee, which administers the selection process, to recognize meritorious service by CWIs on the local and national levels.

The award is named for the great Texan and Certified Welding Inspector Dalton E. Hamilton, who passed away in 1988. Hamilton was very active in the AWS as a pioneering leader and advocate of certification, and as chair of the Qualification and Certification Main Committee, chair of the Executive Subcommittee, and as a member of six other committees and subcommittees.

Last year, the national award was bestowed upon William R.

Beck, who is with the Project Management Construction Division of the Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, N.Y. Beck began his welding career in 1967 while in the U.S. Navy, where he serviced and repaired nuclear and nonnuclear piping systems on nuclear submarines, performing pipefitting, welding, and brazing. Beck holds certifications as an AWS Certified Welding Inspector; a New York State DOT-Registered Inspector; ASNT Level II, visual testing; ASNT Level II, dye penetrant testing; and ASNT Level II, magnetic particle testing.

Nominations for District-level awards are sent to the appropriate District Director or District Awards Committee by the date set by each District. Application forms and guidelines are available by e-mailing AWS Awards Coordinator Wendy Sue Reeve at wreeve@aws.org.

Nominations for the national award are to be submitted by the District Director to the AWS Awards Coordinator by August 1, 2004. National nominations stay active for consideration by the Selection Committee of the AWS Certification Committee for three years. If the Selection Committee determines a winner, the award is made official in a ceremony at the annual AWS Welding Show.

Submission packets for candidates are often quite extensive, a tribute to the accomplishments and peer recognition that many CWIs have garnished in their communities. Nomination packets typically contain biographies, copies of diplomas and certificates, project descriptions, lists of community and professional volunteer activities, and glowing letters of endorsement from employers, clients, instructors, Section and District members, school and community groups, etc.

If you know a Certified Welding Inspector who deserves recognition as CWI of the Year, either on a District or national level, let your District Director know.

Every year the competition gets tougher, but it's a competition that brings out the best in CWIs. ♦

Correction

In the Fall 2003 "Exam Bank," it was incorrectly stated that a score of 70% is needed on each section in order to pass the CWI exam. The correct amount is 72% on each test portion.

Ross Hancock (rhancock@aws.org) is Associate Editor of Inspection Trends. His recent article "Laser Turbocharges' Oxygen Cutting of Steel Slabs" was published in *Avtomaticheskaya Svarka*, the journal of the E.O.Paton Electric Welding Institute in Kiev, Ukraine.