

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)

March 2001

Across the Board

"WTCA January 27, 2001 Open Quarterly Meeting Summary" by Scott Arquilla, WTCA 2001 Secretary

The Winter Open Quarterly Board Meeting was held on January 27, 2001, in South Padre Island, Texas. WTCA President, Mary Pat Keller, presided over the 28 Board members and the 20 additional attendees who participated in three days of productive committee and Board meetings.

At the October meeting, Board members ranked mandatory priorities for 2001. These were reviewed and will be implemented. A complete list of the 106 priorities can be obtained by going to the WTCA [web site](#) or by contacting staff for a copy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Pat Keller presented the Executive Committee's report. From the Component Manufacturers Roundtable, the Board approved the resolutions found in the [Executive Director's Message](#). The goal is to lay a foundation for working more closely with the Wood Promotion Network (WPN) to enhance/create value for wood structural components (something that seemed to be missing from the original WPN campaign). A Lumber Promotion Committee was also formed with lumber companies to advance the interests of the wood component industry. These are two tremendously positive outcomes for our collective industries. Finally, the Board reviewed and passed a resolution stating our members' position on the lease, sale or license of component software to component manufacturers. Currently non-manufacturers can potentially gain the use of this software to design trusses, which have implications that all component manufacturers should be aware of.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike Ruede presented the 2000 treasurer's report, which noted a \$98,817 deficit for the year 2000. The Board approved the 2001 budget with a budgeted net income of \$339. This meets the fiscal planning objectives of the Board and includes a Board directed transfer of \$50,000 into WTCA's Reserve Savings account. The Board intends to grow the cash reserves to the point that one year's cost of operations is ultimately being saved.

REPORTS FROM KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS

- Over the first three weeks of 2001, individual lumber industry meetings were held with

Georgia-Pacific, Temple Inland, International Paper, Weyerhaeuser, Potlatch, East Coast Lumber and Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (SLMA). Those attending the meetings were very pleased by the positive discussions. SLMA has invited WTCA's Executive Committee to a Roundtable discussion with the SLMA Board in May to further the association's mutual interests and to get a better feel for the issues that lumber manufacturers are facing. Again, this is a wonderfully positive approach to improving our industry overall.

- The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) is working on the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 5000 code, a fire service oriented building code currently under development. AF&PA has been and will continue to keep WTCA abreast of key wood component issues, so we can deal with these issues in a united approach. AF&PA has done great work here.
- The MSR Lumber Producers Council is planning their annual Workshop to be held in April in British Columbia.
- The Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) expires on March 31, 2001. [See Executive Directors Message](#). A call for information will be sent to affected U.S. manufacturers. Our goal is to get solid market information and then have the opportunity to present the facts to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) when we meet with them at our Legislative Conference in May.
- Lumber Certification issues were discussed briefly. Most U.S. lumber manufacturers choose to be certified in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), which requires a third party inspection procedure. In addition, Canadian lumber mills have instituted the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) initiative and there is also the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The current question is, which organization will be most accepted? The question of "chain of custody" and its costs still exists. This needs to be clarified for all lumber users. Board members reported that there are a very small number of "green communities" which require a certain percent of certified products to be used in trusses and/or the structure when building for a government entity. However, the majority of work in this country does not require certified lumber. Pricing for these products is, at present, quite a bit higher than for non-certified lumber and our goal is to keep this potentially onerous process from spreading.

TPI REPORT

Tom Manenti, President of the Truss Plate Institute (TPI), reported that TPI is working on the consensus of ANSI/TPI 1. The quality section of the standard has been delayed to allow for WTCA's truss testing to be completed. A meeting was held February 15 and 16 to draft the standard. Further, WTCA staff noted that the American Society of Civil Engineers has published a preliminary design specification for loads to be applied to trusses during the construction process and has asked that TPI take the lead in ensuring this does not adversely impact our industry. This may require trusses to be designed for extra loads we currently do not consider. TPI and WTCA will provide code changes as necessary.

BCMC REPORT

Jerry Vulgaris, BCMC Chairman, reported that the 2001 show in Louisville will be held in a newly renovated exhibit hall that will surprise everyone who attended BCMC in the past. "Ideas to Build On" is the theme and it will be another exciting show.

NAHB REPORT

WTCA will be presenting three seminars at the Atlanta NAHB convention in February related to our work with NAHB and component construction. We usually reach in excess of 1000 builders at all the sessions we provide. Our \$25,000 contribution to the NAHB Research Center was paid this month and we continue to work to support this important customer base and customer association, which provides a great return on our industry's investment.

SBCC REPORT

The first Structural Building Components Council (SBCC) meeting was also held. It was agreed that a Vision and Mission Statement would be drafted.

FIRE PROJECTS

Staff gave an update on the Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas (TMAT) project with the Houston Fire Department. Three videos are planned. The first, Introducing the Truss Industry to the Fire Service, is in script review and finalization. The second, Shipping, Storage, Installation and Bracing, should be drafted by June 2001, and the third, Truss Framing, should be drafted by October 2001.

Curt Cress of Schuck Components in Glendale, Arizona took a video of a plywood/OSB (on trusses) fire test done by the National Institute for Science and Technology in Phoenix. Interestingly, none of the tests used a standard upon which to assess performance. Despite this, the results were quite visibly phenomenal. The test showed that plates did not pop off of the trusses when exposed to fire and that charring kept the trusses from failing. The test showed OSB/Plywood sheathing failed more quickly than the trusses and that the "dummy firefighters" on the roof stood on it under raging fire conditions for 16 to 17 minutes before the sheathing failed. This was far better performance than most would expect.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- **Legislative Committee:** The Board approved a \$2,000 contribution to National Organization of Manufacturers (NAM) to help fight, through litigation, the new ergonomics standard put in place by the Clinton administration and OSHA prior to the end of the President's term.
- Planning for the May Legislative Conference Meeting in Washington, DC was started.
- **Technical/Business Committee:** The Technical/Business Committee discussed design responsibilities, sealed placement plans and electronic seal submittal issues.
- **Quality Control Committee:** Discussion focused on the preliminary results of the truss testing currently being done. The goal is to draft a new QC Standard that is easier to perform and more accurate.
- **Management/Business Insurance Committee:** The termination of WTCA's relationship with the Lumberman's Underwriting Alliance (LUA) effective January 18, 2001, was announced. The Business Insurance Subcommittee will meet with WTCA's insurance adviser, Bob Bush, in Atlanta on February 13 to discuss options like conventional group programs or captive insurance programs for members.
- **Membership Committee:** A full report on membership for 2001 is expected at the end of February. Membership looks very positive so far, given the dues increase that WTCA's Board

directed.

CONCLUSION

The important message from each of the meetings is that every WTCA member needs to be involved with their local chapters, legislative representatives, *WOODWORDS* advertisers and BCMC exhibitors to carry on the WTCA mission. All members are encouraged to request that suppliers that are not members become WTCA members, and that they advertise in *WOODWORDS* and exhibit at BCMC. If we are united in purpose and are good stewards of all the resources provided to us, we will also prosper. That is WTCA's goal.

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

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