

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)

September/October 2001

Across the Board

"WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting Summary: July 26-28, 2001" by Scott Arquilla, WTCA 2001 Secretary

WTCA's most recent Open Quarterly Meeting was held in Portland, OR, on July 26-28. The three days included a series of committee meetings, a component manufacturers-only roundtable discussion, a golf outing and a variety of other opportunities for interaction with industry peers.

On July 28, WTCA President Mary Pat Keller opened the full board meeting with an Executive Committee report. Mike Ruede, Treasurer, presented the June 2001 financial statements. For the six months, total association revenue was 18.36 percent over the budgeted amount. The significant revenue increases this year were primarily due to increased publication sales and the dues increase. Ruede also reported how the dues increase for 2001 enabled WTCA to continue to meet member demands for services. Per the budget approved in January, \$50,000 was transferred to Reserve Savings. For the first six months of the year we had a projected WTCA operations deficit of \$127,530, but increased revenue reduced the actual deficit to \$75,716. WTCA depends on *WOODWORDS* and BCMC to cover budgeted operations deficits. With BCMC and *WOODWORDS* revenue down this year, the increase in dues and the increase in publications sales will keep WTCA membership services and our association strong this year and in years to come. Chapters were asked to relay the Board's appreciation to all members for their commitment to WTCA.

NEWS FROM ALIGNED ASSOCIATIONS

Members of the Executive Committee were guests of the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (SLMA) in May. Two days of meetings resulted in a white paper that outlines how truss manufacturers may choose to enter into a financial partnering relationship between the lumber manufacturer, the component manufacturer and the builder, with the goal being to allow everyone in the chain of commerce the ability to make a profit on their work. It is the first time a group of lumber manufacturers have taken the initiative to pay for and hold a meeting with component manufacturers, an encouraging approach that made us feel like we are important customers. (For more details on this productive meeting, see ["Across the Board" in the August 2001 issue of WOODWORDS](#))

Kevin Cheung of the Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) gave an update regarding higher shear and specific gravity numbers for MSR grades in western species. These will be published in the near future.

Cathy Marx of the Southern Forest Products Association (SFPA) reported that an updated

university engineered wood seminar was being prepared for distribution on CD-ROM. WTCA has been working with SFPA to add pertinent information on wood trusses. She also stated that specific gravity increases for MEL and MSR SYP grades over 1.7e will be announced soon.

Jim Kaake of Georgia-Pacific gave the group an update of the MSR Lumber Producers Council (MSR LPC). The MSR LPC will be holding its next seminar in April of 2002. They also continue to support WTCA through *WOODWORDS* advertising.

Andy Schwitter of Truswal spoke for Tom Manenti on behalf of the Truss Plate Institute (TPI). Of extreme importance was the new ANSI quality standard and much discussion ensued. The Board asked for a timeline of meetings to track the deadline dates to establish the new standard. It was noted that it is important to have quorums at the project committee meetings, either in person or through proxy in order to speed the process to completion.

WOODWORDS UPDATE

Suzi Grundahl reported that, year to date, profit on the magazine is down from budget, so the magazine may not have the ability to fund as many component industry projects this year as in the past. A few advertisers have reduced space or dropped out this year. Since the September/October BCMC Show Guide is the largest issue, and ad sales were up by more than \$2,000, Grundahl anticipates that this will assist us meeting our budget by year-end, which will help us continue the very important work accomplished inside the *WOODWORDS* budget.

BCMC UPDATE

BCMC Chair Jerry Vulgaris gave an update regarding BCMC. At present, 48,000 square feet of exhibition space has been sold versus a budget of 52,800 feet. Anticipated contracts should bring the sold space close to budget soon. A new online registration began just prior to the Board meeting, and 28 attendees have already registered online. At present, 70 percent of the Galt House and Hilton rooms and 77 percent of the Hyatt rooms have been booked. Given this rate of hotel bookings, attendance will again be high. All programs have been set and are strong. There are two panel discussion sessions and questions may be submitted for the panel to address via the BCMC web site at www.bcmcshow.com.

PATH UPDATE

Kirk Grundahl reported that HUD's Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) Steering Committee will meet again in September to plan for 2002. It looks like PATH will be funded again at nearly \$10 million, which will allow the roadmapping work to be finished, project priorities to be established and projects implemented.

WORK ON REGIONAL ISSUES

Efforts with the Houston Fire Department continue with two of the three videos completed while the third is being scripted. There is the possibility of a fourth tape being done on the Phoenix Fire Test done in January 2001. It was an exceptional tape that showed a great truss

performance.

The New York State legislature passed a placarding bill, yet unsigned, which will require a placard on specified buildings in the state that contain trusses. Sid Ketchum thought he had support from his Senator to defeat the bill, but the deaths of two firemen (due to a brick wall falling in New York City) caused an emotional reaction that pushed the bill through the legislature.

The Illinois legislature passed Senate Bill 754, requiring code-making authorities to give a 30-day notice of pending building code changes to the Illinois Building Commission. The Commission will make a web site available to monitor these pending changes. The 30-day period allows parties to speak to the code authorities on how the code changes would affect their businesses. There was great team work between AF&PA and WTCA with respect to this bill. Thanks must go to Ken Bland and AF&PA for taking the lead on the fight for this law.

SBCC UPDATE

The Structural Building Components Council Board, consisting of the WTCA, SCDA and STCA Executive Committees, will meet in Chicago on September 16. At that time we will formalize the SBCC mission statement. Nominations Roger Gibbs, Nominating Committee Chair, made a motion to elect Mike Ruede of Trussway as 2002 President and the motion passed unanimously. Gibbs reported that Dan Holland of Clearspan Components was elected by Board letter ballot for 2002 Secretary. Gibbs also called for all WTCA Chapters to nominate Board members who will commit to attending all four Board meetings as well as all other responsibilities asked of them. The future of our association is dependent on that commitment. This coming year, each Board member will complete a questionnaire as a part of the desire of the Board of Directors to get to know each other even better.

ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Mary Pat Keller reported that a number of issues were discussed at the roundtable meeting. On the lumber front, we are attempting to have a Section 332 application made to the ITC that would detail the impact on our industry of international trade rules and regulations. At present, it appears that this action will have bipartisan support with Senator Trent Lott's office taking the lead on this issue. On August 10, a 19.3 percent penalty tariff on softwood lumber was announced to take effect on a preliminary basis by August 20. In November or December, the duty will most likely be revised, after which appeals may be filed. In addition, the Canadians have the World Trade Organization involved in their case.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Marketing Committee presented two motions. First, the committee approved a request to ask the Lumber Promotions Subcommittee to gather and provide to WTCA all market research and focus group studies available to them. The goal is to help refine WTCA market strategies. Second, Spanish warning tags will not be added to the WTCA product line as our goal is to make "graphics serve so language is less essential," as we cannot do tags in every language found on

the jobsite today.

From the Legislative Committee, our newly revised Softwood Lumber Position statement was approved. Further, all other WTCA legislative position statements will be reviewed annually and dated for future use. Further, for the foreseeable future, the spring Board meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. with both legislative meetings and a Board meeting.

The Technical Business Issues Committee reviewed the ongoing Florida sealed index sheet issue. The committee revised the language of the Florida Professional Engineering law and reviewed and revised a draft index sheet. This will be finalized and sent back to the Florida Executive Committee for implementation. WTCA and the Florida Executive Committee are also revising the new Florida building code that goes into effect January 1, 2002. The language in the "High Wind High Velocity" section of the code will hurt the truss industry unless it is revised.

The Management/Business Insurance Committee reviewed the unresolved settlement with Lumberman's Underwriting Assurance. Kent Pagel, > WTCA's Legal Counsel, will also be reviewing the current warranty Arch Wood Protection (formerly Hickson) provides to builders in hopes of presenting another draft of a truss manufacturers' FRT warranty at BCMC. With the conversion of some of WTCA's training courses to CD-ROM, the committee asked staff to prioritize the conversion of all training to this format, including risk management and safety. Lastly, Ken Cloyd discussed his progress on putting together a safety/insurance program through a nationwide insurance broker.

The Quality Control Committee spent most of their meeting discussing the new Plate Placement Method (PPM) of QC versus the current ANSI/TPI 1 mandated Tooth Count Method. The purpose of WTCA's extensive testing proved that PPM can work effectively and will make inspecting trusses more accurate and efficient. The ANSI acceptance of this new method must occur by November 1, 2001.

The Membership Committee noted a 94 percent membership renewal this past winter despite the dues increase. The Executive Committee will review the dues structure annually with the option of increasing it according to the consumer price index. Two chapter summits will be held this winter, one in the northeast and one in the west.

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

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