

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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## Across the Board

WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting Summary: May 11, 2002, Washington, D.C.,  
by Dan Holland, 2002 WTCA Secretary

A meeting of the WTCA Board of Directors was held in conjunction with the annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C. After the usual signing of the attendance and anti-trust policy statement, the minutes from the Orlando, FL meeting were approved.

All present reported on the meetings conducted with their legislators and/or agencies in the preceding days. The following conclusions were reported:

- Our most important issue, softwood lumber trade with Canada, was not as important to most of the House members we spoke with as it was to the Senate members. However, many of the House members desired to be kept informed.
- Many Senate members were very well informed regarding the CVD and AD duties to be in effect shortly. Some were also aware and concerned about the unintended consequences that might occur to industries like ours. Several Senators indicated that they would sign a letter similar to the letter Senator Lott sent to USTR.
- Some Senators are not willing to support any actions that may lead to added tariffs.
- All of the legislators seemed to be attentive to discussions of job losses and not as attentive to economic loss discussions. They were more interested in jobs than dollars.
- Everyone agreed that the process of visiting legislators was a learning process and relationship-building experience that needs to be performed many times over a long period of time in order to be most effective.

Chapter representatives reported on current activities including education for building officials, dealing with code issues, planning of upcoming meetings and member education.

The nominating committee put forward Kendall Hoyd for the position of Secretary in the coming year. Hoyd was elected by unanimous vote.

Discussions occurred regarding directors whose terms will be expiring. The nominating committee is working with our chapters on nominations for the 2003 Board of Directors. At the July meeting, a full review of the bylaws will be made for needed revisions and updating.

President Mike Ruede gave the Executive Committee report. As an item of new business, the possibility of creating a data standard for uniform and predictable data interchange in the building components industry was discussed. It was noted that such a standard would be useful for suppliers as well as customers of component manufacturers. The standard would help minimize the disruption to business that sometimes occurs when new software versions are

introduced or new machinery is introduced in the manufacturing process. Suppliers would gain the benefit of not having to maintain driver software for multiple machine specific data formats. Since this item involves the storage of data for individual component designs, it seems logical for TPI to lead in its development. TPI will be consulted.

Ruede also reported on the need for chapter presidents and representatives to have each chapter review the policy manuals so that members are aware of the position of the board on the issues covered. Feedback is welcome as the policies of WTCA need to represent the will of our membership.

Other items on the Executive Committee report included an update on the effort to provide affordable insurance to our membership through Lockton and Chapter Summit Meetings. We have a confidentiality agreement in place with Lockton and a framework for a final agreement on how the program will work. Thank you to all who filled out the survey. The results are being compiled for Lockton's use.

Scott Arquilla presented the Treasurer's report, noting revenue below budget due to changing the timing of dues billing, expenses for online Training (TTT) without offsetting revenue at this time, and unrealized investment loss. All of these financial items should be resolved as we progress through the year as dues become payable for all members who chose to pay six months last December, the online TTT program becomes available for sale, and the bonds we have invested in are held to maturity.

Tom Manenti reported on the recent TPI board meeting in Dallas, attended by the Executive Committee of WTCA. TPI and WTCA agree that the meeting was very successful and productive. We agree to divide responsibilities using a "litmus" test: If an item involves the design and quality of a single component and its individual chord or web member bracing, TPI will lead; if an item involves the manufacturing, sale, delivery and installation of components, WTCA will lead.

Carl Schoening gave the BCMC Committee report, indicating that this year's sale of floor space is ahead of last year. Kirk Grundahl indicated that the market research survey has been completed and an executive summary of the results will be presented soon. The results of the survey favor the annual show. Everyone was encouraged to recruit suppliers and component manufacturer members to attend the show.

Suzi Grundahl gave a report on SBC Magazine and encouraged everyone who would like to contribute articles or content to do so. She also reviewed statistics of hits to individual advertisers on the SBC web site.

A brief discussion about Truss Technician Training Online occurred. The program is being tested now with "beta" users and should be ready for all sometime in the late summer or fall. Level 1 training will be available first with Truss Technology Workshop (TTW) courses to follow and then TTT Level 2.

Kirk showed an investigative news report from Phoenix, AZ about the fire performance of

trusses. The report was quite biased and seemed to be politically motivated to pressure the adoption of the NFPA building code. Lengthy discussion resulted in the strategy to use in this situation and across the country on this issue. It was noted that the truss related sections of the IBC and NFPA codes are almost identical. Our goal is to finalize a presentation on CD that can be provided to fire department training personnel that tells our story with facts regarding the fire performance of trusses. This will provide our industry with a tool to educate many more fire officials on the local level. We hope to have this available by the mid-summer.

Following brief reports from the connector industry representative and the lumber industry representative, the meeting was adjourned.

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The next WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting will be held July 25-27 at the Wyndham Hotel—Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, UT. The meeting is open to all and WTCA component manufacturer and supplier members are especially encouraged to attend. Contact WTCA-National at 608/274-4849 for more information about this meeting.

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