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Making BCMC the Best It Can Be: Your Source for Innovations & Solutions by Carl Schoening

Once again I bring you greetings from the BCMC Committee. BCMC has always provided component manufacturers with a forum to view the latest advancements in technology. We have heard a few negative personalities in our industry say that BCMC is always the same. In all my BCMC experiences, this could not be further from the truth, unless you are totally oblivious to everything around you. Not only has there been new technology in regard to production management, business management and equipment, but the latest engineering and software advancements as well.

Each year exhibitors provide us with the newest versions of every gizmo available and give glimpses of the future. Last year, attendees had the opportunity to see versions of design software in beta testing and the hot stuff still in research and development. Not only were you able to see new developments, but you were able offer suggestion for future development. By not being there, your competitors got the inside track on new developments and were able to provide comments on how to make the new systems fit their businesses the best. Do you think they made comments that took care of those of you who did not attend? I know our business model uses BCMC to help provide our customers with competitive advantages and those who attend always seem to increase sales compared to their local competition.

Another important reason to attend BCMC is that component manufacturers will have the opportunity to learn more about the new technical changes in our industry including ANSI/TPI 1-2002, ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2002 and all the risk/safety management tools that are increasingly becoming available to industry members. As everyone knows, insurance, construction defects, mold and fire are some of the issues that are increasingly providing industry challenges. BCMC will have solutions.

Of particular interest are the changes in the ANSI/TPI 1 quality standard and design process. Software suppliers will be showing their new solutions to information management, improved design capability and ANSI/TPI 1 enhancements that will allow component manufacturers to use the new standard effectively and efficiently. This will have a significant impact on the labor used to assure the proper quality and compliance. ANSI/TPI 1-2002 marks the active participation of both the plate suppliers and component manufacturers in quality assurance. Sessions will educate BCMC attendees about the new Plate Placement Method, one of the most significant changes, and the many other positive enhancement details of this important standard.

Technology is also having impact on BCMC exhibitors. The recently updated BCMC web site includes exhibitor listings and information request links. This valuable benefit, provided to all exhibitors, posts the latest exhibitor information on the BCMC web site. When a visitor to the web site submits a request for information, an email is generated to BCMC staff. The staff then forwards the request to the exhibitor. This is another way that participating in BCMC provides greater value to its exhibitors and supports those companies that support the component industry. This is also a valuable service for attendees who can use the information available on the web site to make their trip to BCMC as productive as possible.

Advances in production equipment, delivery equipment and design software will continue to provide recognition that the component industry is the most sophisticated and fastest growing link in the building industry chain. The component industry has "Ideas To Build On" and with them we are "Building A New Tomorrow." As we share our ideas with the building industry, we will continue to be the value-added partner securing the place of component manufacturers in the supply chain.

"Building A New Tomorrow" starts with embracing new ideas and technology. Please join us in Columbus, OH for BCMC 2002.

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