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President's Message



WTCA & TPI – An Important Step Forward by Michael Ruede, 2002 WTCA President

On April 23 the Executive Committees of WTCA and TPI met in Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX for what has become to many a historic day between our two organizations. In the past, WTCA and TPI have too frequently not seen the projects related to truss and component issues in the same light. On this day, things were different, but just how different could not have been anticipated by either organization. Following is a summary to bring you up to date concerning the positive changes that occurred at this meeting.

Charlie Hoover, President of TPI, opened the meeting. After introductions and approval of the previous meeting's minutes, he turned the meeting over to WTCA.

I started the WTCA portion of the meeting where we left off after the previous TPI Board Meeting, with a discussion concerning a committee formed by WTCA and TPI to evaluate and define each organization's roles within the component industry. Although this committee met three times previously, each time they adjourned, the issues or concerns raised had to be taken back to their respective Boards for discussion and/or approval. It seemed that this process would not end. Then we decided to take a different approach and get the Executive Committees from both associations together for an all day meeting if that's what it would take to get the issues resolved. Our plan was either to agree or agree to disagree.

Based on TPI's mission statement, WTCA has viewed TPI's role along the following lines: Truss plate design, manufacturing and safety; individual truss design and engineering; consensus standards on individual truss design and engineering; building code regulations as they pertain to individual truss design and engineering and machinery.

Bill Turnbull of TPI brought the group up to speed on previous discussions the committee had on these issues. Turnbull stated that TPI had considered a litmus test that will be used to evaluate a project to see if it should be in WTCA's or TPI's domain and which association should take the lead. Charlie Hoover set forth the following thought on the proposed TPI litmus test. TPI produces the individual truss design drawings and used this concept as the test's general framework. The thoughts are as follows:

For any projects that fall inside these parameters, TPI will be the lead organization: All design methods and references made on the truss design documents (HIB bracing will fall into this due to the notes on the truss design drawing); the consensus standards development process; publication of ANSI consensus design standards as they relate to metal plate connected wood

trusses; all building code regulations that impact truss design and software development; and third party quality control. WTCA will take the lead in all other areas as they relate to component manufacturing and application and to aggressively fulfill its mission statement.

What I've just gone through may not seem like much, but to those who participated in this lengthy process, this is a huge step in getting our organizations united and working in the same direction, on common goals for the benefit of the component manufacturing industry. This litmus test process will benefit every component manufacturer across the country. I'd like to thank the TPI Board of Directors and the WTCA Executive Committee for all their efforts in making the litmus test process a success. I would like to especially thank WTCA Past President Mary Pat Keller, along with TPI Past President Tom Manenti, for having the vision to start the TPI/WTCA committee and get the ball rolling. I also want to thank Charlie Hoover for sharing this vision. Truly, if it was not for his leadership our organizations could not have made this giant leap.

Over the coming months, there will much to report on the joint activities and new relationship formed by our organizations. We at SBC Magazine will do our best to keep you informed of all the latest and greatest things we're doing on behalf of the component industry. Also, please be sure to keep those letters and emails coming. We enjoy hearing from you.

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