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Across the Board

WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting Summary: July 25-27, 2002, Salt Lake City, Utah by Scott Arquilla, 2002 WTCA President-Elect/Treasurer

Mike Ruede, WTCA President, called the summer Board of Directors meeting in Salt Lake City to order on July 27, 2002. After introductions and review of the Anti-Trust Statement, the board proceeded to the meeting agenda.

Mary Pat Keller, immediate Past President, gave the Nominating Committee report. At our last meeting in Washington, D.C., the board confirmed the election of Kendall Hoyd, President of Idaho Truss Co. to the Board position of Secretary for the coming year. At this meeting, Keller reviewed the expiring Board Chapter seats and made requests to each chapter to provide her with their new nominations for individuals who would take office at the next board meeting on October 19 in Columbus, OH.

Each chapter representative then gave a full report of their chapter activities over the past three months. The most important issues noted were the current activities with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers on truss design drawings index sheets, sealed truss placement plans and design responsibilities with similar issues taking place in North Carolina and Texas. Two chapters announced that WTCA-National would handle their administration, including the Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas and the Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association. Lastly, the Executive Committee has requested that each chapter confirm the WTCA Policies, in compliance with WTCA's bylaws which state; "All members will observe all policies, all provisions of the Council's articles of incorporation and its Bylaws," and all chapters "agree to abide by the Articles, Bylaws and Policies of the Council, as amended from time to time." Our strong organization has been built based on policies, created through ten years of insight. It is critical that all members and chapters follow these policies in order for WTCA to be as effective as it can be. Given this, each chapter has undertaken the task of reviewing these policies so that our industry is united, policies are changed where needed and reports are given to the board on the chapter perspective.

Mike Ruede presented the Executive Committee report, in which he announced his appointments of Tom Nomeland and Tom Reaves to a new Research Committee, consisting of the Executive Committee and two at-large board members, to evaluate investments in research that would benefit the entire industry. Further, it was announced that, after a great deal of discussion on the best long-term approach to monitoring engineering and technology developments in our industry, the Engineering Review Committee (ERC) and Technical Business Issues Committee would be combined into the new Engineering and Technology Committee. Members of those previous committees met with the TPI Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) during our quarterly meetings in Salt Lake City. Finally, Ruede announced that the Executive Committee was

recommending revision of the WTCA bylaws. Included in the new version will be an expansion of the existing Executive Committee to eight persons consisting of the Senior Officers and four at-large Board members, executives of their companies who have the ability to bind their companies to contracts and that have a passion for advancing this industry through the work of WTCA. The current board would have no limits on at-large board, chapter and associate seats. The key criteria will be supporting our industry work effort and providing perspectives to help us accomplish much. The revised bylaws will be presented at the board meeting in Columbus for approval.

The Treasurer's report noted that WTCA has collected the majority of our membership dues. The financials are accruing dues differently this year due to the change in the dues billing cycle from January 1 to July 1. This has caused the financials to show a dues deficit when one does not exist. While we budgeted income from our new Truss Technician Training (TTT) Online through June 30, none has been generated to date. As of June 30, total net operating revenue was down approximately \$77,000 from budget. This was due in large part to all the Florida Chapter work that has been undertaken to protect industry interests there, greater than expected industry marketing expenses and all the front end work of our new online educational system, now called WTCA's "Truss Knowledge Online (TKO)" service. The TTT Online program became available August 1 and all members received a sample CD-ROM and promotion for the program. This program is the number one priority of the Executive Committee and, therefore, the Executive Committee recommended and the board approved that staff continue the development of TTT Online Level II and as many of our Truss Technology Workshops (TTW's) as possible, for our industry specifiers, building officials and builders needing CEUs. The goal is for this to be completed by December 31, 2002 with an additional expenditure of \$100,000. This allocation of resources still fits inside our budgeting process as defined in the bylaws. This expenditure has the potential to create a deficit financial position for 2002 depending on TTT Level I and any TTW sales, but the Executive Committee feels that there will be demand for Level II now. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Truswal's Andy Schwitter (WTCA TPI Board Representative) and Alpine's Charlie Hoover (TPI President) gave an update on the improved working relationship with the TPI Board since our joint meeting in late April. After the creation of the "litmus test" at that meeting, each association has a clear directive as to who is to take the lead on various activities (See [President's Message](#) and [An Air of Cooperation](#) articles in SBC, June/July 2002). Tasks remaining from the meeting include issues surrounding the planing of the bottom chords of trusses in the southwestern U.S., round ended webs and the TPI Quality Standard, and end grain nailing noted in WTCA's TTB on Temporary Bracing (WTCA-B2). Due to competitive issues, the TPI Board could not, as an organization, endorse WTCA's Policy on Component Design Software and its use by non-component manufacturers. Their individual members will determine their own corporate policy, taking into account their customers' perspectives. ANSI TPI 1-2002 will be implemented May 1, 2003 by all TPI members. Also, TPI anticipates that ANSI TPI 4-2002 harmonization will be completed prior to BCMC.

The NAHB/PATH Certified Trade Contractor program has taken off in Las Vegas and Maryland. The NAHB Research Center has had significant interest and demand from trade contractors in both markets and will expand its efforts to the Atlanta, GA and Riverside, CA markets in the near future. WTCA, with Schuck Components and All Tech, was very instrumental in laying the

foundation for this program and is proud to see the success that the NAHB-RC is having with this. Our long-term goal is to improve construction quality overall, which will make components easier to use and then to simplify the permit and building approval process via the use of qualified subcontractors, making construction more efficient and affordable.

The Carbeck Structural Components Institute has sponsored the creation of our industry's new Fire Service Educational CD-ROM. Revenue will be shared with the Houston Fire Department, the co-producer, to undertake future educational program developments. Our goal with this tool is to get the facts on the fire performance of trusses into the hands of the fire service so wise decisions about the structural wood component industry be made.

Carl Schoening, BCMC Chairman, gave an update on BCMC and reported that everything is on track for another fantastic show. The new educational seminars have been designed by component manufacturers for component manufacturers and will deal with day-to-day component manufacturer issues. The key to this year's show is attendance by component manufacturers. The board believes in the value of BCMC and urges each and every member and non-member to attend this year's show in Columbus!

Suzi Grundahl gave a report on SBC Magazine. A list of advertisers, including statistics about new advertisers and advertisers increasing space, was provided. SBC will continue to ask our entire membership to help us with articles and topics. Further, Libby Maurer has been appointed to the position of Assistant Editor.

A brief report on the kick-off of "Truss Knowledge Online" followed. The one-year system access pricing for TTT Online Level I has been set up to encourage use by all our members. A special introductory offer has been set up: if companies buy one year of access now, they will receive access through the end of 2003. Non-members will also be mailed the promotional materials soon, which, we hope, will encourage them to join with us in advancing our industry through education and training. Our TTW's will also be online by year-end and available for those needing continuing education.

The Market Research Report, as prepared by the University of Wisconsin MBA students, was presented to the board a few months ago. The report's conclusions concerning member satisfaction with BCMC, WTCA and SBC were discussed briefly. Members for the most part praised WTCA and SBC and agreed that the BCMC equipment show should be held annually. We are intending to use this as a benchmark and plan to undertake future surveys to ensure we are continuing to meet the needs of our industry and membership.

KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER REPORTS

Carl Schoening of Simpson-Strong Tie, noted that the National Design Standard on truss to truss connections had been revised recently. This is a positive outcome and benefit for the hanger industry.

Helen Griffin of Weyerhaeuser and Lee Ashburn of East Coast Lumber gave updates on the lumber industry. On July 27, it was announced that the WTO ruled that Canadian stumpage

prices can be a subsidy, but the U.S. can't use cross border comparisons to determine the level of subsidy. Numerous appeals will follow and it is unclear how and when this will conclude. Plans for WTCA to attend the August 14 meeting at the NAHB offices in Washington to discuss mold issues were announced. NV Ryan Construction on the East Coast now has inspectors and requires all suppliers to remove and replace any moldy material found. Additionally, CCA treated lumber will be prohibited as a consumer product by the end of 2003 and the new treatment, AZQ, is being introduced by the treaters at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS

(Updated policies will be posted on the WTCA web site.) The Component Manufacturers Issues Discussion Forum proposed a revised component design software policy, and a policy was put in place to improve communication on all issues between WTCA, our chapters and members so that we take advantage of all the available perspectives and expertise. (See [Knowledge Is Power](#) for details.)

The Legislative Committee discussed a recent meeting in Madison with Weyerhaeuser, in which Weyerhaeuser requested our help to urge our legislators to ask the Bush administration and the USTR to seek a long term negotiated trade solution to the U.S./Canada lumber issue.

The Marketing Committee discussed our new TKO web site, all of our online training programs and our new Fire Service Education CD, with the goal of reaching as many people as possible.

The Management/Business Insurance Committee discussed our future online Safety Program, the new FRT warranty being finalized with Arch/Dricon, and the new Lockton Insurance Program, which was presented and received quite a bit of interest from board members present. Lockton's goal is to get the involvement of a sufficient number of manufacturers and to gather as much information as it can as quickly as it can, so that we can have a solid program in place prior to year-end.

The Quality Control committee noted that WTCA QC and TPI Third Party Inspection will be harmonized in early November to comply with the new ANSI TPI 1-2002 standard. Further, the Committee discussed recertification of WTCA QC certified plants after three years and decided to retain the original policy on this. Finally a decision was made to formalize a joint position statement concerning the history of truss industry QC and the new Plate Placement Method quality standard by TPI TAC, the WTCA QC Committee, and Engineering and Technology Committee to clear up any misconceptions of the new standard.

Lastly, the Membership Committee discussed the highlights of their meeting, where membership and chapter issues were discussed. Work on associate national and local chapter membership dues continues, and the committee recommended that the Executive Committee continue to monitor membership dues and any annual increases thereto.

Being no further business, Mike Ruede, President, closed the meeting by thanking the Board and the Qualtim staff for allowing the Association to meet many goals and solve many problems over his year of being the Association's President.

WTCA's next Open Quarterly Meeting will follow BCMA 2002 on October 19 in Columbus, OH. Contact staff for details: 608/274-4849.

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