

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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## President's Message



### A Look Back — Highlights of a Productive Year by Michael Ruede, 2002 WTCA President

For this, my farewell column in SBC Magazine, I have so much to say and so many people to acknowledge. I owe our association and all its supporters my warmest wishes and sincere gratitude for the tremendous opportunity that I was granted. I have witnessed great synergy and a focused group of people who place the industry ahead of personal gain, and what they can do for an industry and their individual companies. The supporters of our cause and our work greatly outnumber the naysayers. We can continue to encourage this positive leadership by reflecting on the great strides we have made within the component manufacturing industry in just one year. Before we look ahead to the next thing on the horizon, let's take a few moments to look back:

#### TTT ONLINE: LEVEL I

What a huge success for WTCA! The progress we made in the online training concept will surely revolutionize education within the industry and provide a solid platform on which to expand in the future. We have committed a significant portion of funds to the development of this web-based training model and while there are going to be ongoing costs, the Executive Committee and I firmly believe that the investment will pay off in the future.

#### HOUSTON FIRE VIDEO

The collaboration between WTCA and the Houston Fire Department, funded by the [Carbeck Structural Components Institute](#), will make it possible to bridge the knowledge gap between the truss and fire industry. We now have, in one program, all the information that we gathered on the fire performance of trusses. Our goal is to build bridges to the fire service by getting the facts into their hands. This is going to take effort on our members' part to get the Fire Presentation CD into the hands of local fire service educators, and if we take up this charge, we believe that we can really make a difference in attitudes toward our industry.

#### BCMC EXHIBITOR MEETING

On January 9, we held a meeting to discuss a variety of opinions regarding BCMC. We are not aware of many tradeshow groups in the country that have this much exhibitor involvement, and there are reasons for this: it can be extremely challenging! However, we believe that by listening to our exhibitors, we will make the show better. The actions taken are outlined in the [April 2002 issue of SBC Magazine](#).

## TPI AGREEMENT

Perhaps the most exciting development in the last few years and especially this past year is the emergence of a strong working relationship between WTCA and TPI. The goal of our respective boards is to eliminate duplication of association services and allow each association to focus on its core expertise and mission statement. Bill Turnbull of CompuTrus coined the term "litmus test" that we will be using to determine project roles and responsibilities for all our activities together in the future. This test is as follows:

- TPI produces truss design documents. This includes:
  - All the design methods and references made on the truss design documents.
  - 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.
  - Third party quality control.
- For any projects that fall inside these parameters, TPI will be the lead organization.
- WTCA will take the lead in all other areas as they relate to component manufacturing, the use of trusses by component manufacturer customers, and aggressive fulfillment of its mission statement.

So far this "litmus test" process has been working very well. I'd like to thank each of the TPI Board members for working with us on this effort.

These efforts illustrate why those of us close to the operation of our association believe in it so strongly. None of these projects would have been able to be accomplished by individual companies, primarily because it would shift a company's focus to something other than its core business activity of tending to its customers. WTCA's sole purpose is to work on industry-wide issues that involve component manufacturers. I encourage each member to attend one of our Open Quarterly meetings. I guarantee you will see your dues dollars at work and we are always striving to become better.

I thank the WTCA Board for all their direction, guidance and help. I am very excited about the future of WTCA and our industry. If we continue to make the kind of forward progress that we made last year, we will excel beyond imagination. Thank you for seeing us through yet another successful year!

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and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).