

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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President's Message



Goals for a New Year by Scott Arquilla, 2003 WTCA President

It is with a great deal of humility and enthusiasm that I start this year as WTCA's twentieth President. Having attended board meetings since 1996 and served on the board since 1997, I have always learned far more from our board and committee meetings and discussions than what I have ever contributed to them. It is my belief that the nineteen individuals who have preceded me as President of our organization would concur with that viewpoint.

My family has been building components in the Chicago area since 1957. I worked many Saturdays and summers growing up at our company and I can still remember those Sanford plates arriving from Pompano Beach as well as our first Roll-A-Master gantry. After graduating from college, however, I became a commercial banker and it wasn't until 1989 that I returned to work at Best Homes, Inc. Not many in our industry have gone through the culture change that I did. When I think of the manufacturing and software changes that our company and industry has seen over the years, it is truly remarkable and unbelievable.

Our association has gone through tremendous growth over the past twenty years also. Since we separated from TPI in 1983, we have gone from an organization that was nearly bankrupt in its early years to one that is well respected in construction circles for always representing the component industry with the facts. I thank each of our members for their continued support as well as the many dedicated businessmen and women who have served our board over the past twenty years and made the difficult decisions that were the best for our industry. Our staff has been and continues to be second to none in its efforts to serve and satisfy our membership and industry. Our success is a reflection of their efforts.

I continue to ask company executives with a passion for our industry to answer the call of serving on WTCA's Board. Our staff can do an excellent job serving our organization, but it takes a diverse board, coming from all sized manufacturers, to formulate policies and give direction for implementation. Board work is a time commitment and we all know we don't have enough of it. But our work, speaking for our industry on many local issues, be they building code or fire service or sealed placement plans, will sooner or later become national issues if we do not make the effort to speak with one clear and truthful voice to control our destiny.

My goals for the next year will be to continue growth of our new efforts started over the past year, building on the foundation that the litmus test the TPI Board, with whom our Executive Committee met last April, and where the potential for industry project focus, efficiency and progress has never been greater. I would especially like to thank Charlie Hoover for facilitating

our meeting and its results.

Second, we have also spent considerable sums completing and introducing our Truss Knowledge Online TTT training, which promises to be another very successful service that will help us meet our mission of advancing industry's professionalism, serving and growing our membership. Each member has received the demo CD and our staff is to be congratulated for such a well done, professional result. Many college-based programs are not as well done as our Truss Knowledge Online approach.

Third, a soon to be revised Quality Control program, resulting from our association's testing and input to help create ANSI TPI/WTCA 1-2002, will contain a user friendly Plate Placement Method for truss quality inspection. This process is one which every plant needs to adopt to educate our truss plant personnel on truss quality requirements, to reduce quality errors, speed quality checks and minimize lawsuit exposure. This also goes a long way to meeting another WTCA mission statement objective of placing our industry on a sound engineering basis and improving the quality and efficiency of our products, for the purpose of obtaining greater product acceptance.

Lastly, we have been working for some time on and hope to introduce a new insurance program with Lockton Companies, which will start small, but eventually grow into something all members can benefit from as long as each participant adopts and properly manages their risks and safety.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and staff for their efforts over my years of involvement and for the opportunity to become WTCA's President this year. I would especially like to thank the Executive Committee members for their many hours of extra meeting time and commitment to WTCA. And lastly, I would like to thank Mike Ruede for his excellent leadership and years of contribution to our Board and the BCMC Committee. Mike has left a lasting legacy for which all of us should be very grateful. I look forward to his wise counsel this year on our Executive Committee.

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