

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

May 2003

## Across the Board

WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting Summary: Houston, TX • February 27-March 1, 2003 by Kendall Hoyd, 2003 WTCA Secretary

The following is a summary of the proceedings from the February 28, 2003 WTCA Board Meeting in Houston, TX.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- A motion to elect Don Groom of Stark Truss as 2003/2004 WTCA Secretary was passed unanimously.
- A motion to elect Dwight Hikel of Shelter Systems and Bob Becht of Chambers Truss as expanded Executive Committee members, effective immediately was passed unanimously.
- A motion to recommend that the WTCA membership elect Ben Hershey, Tony Harris and Allen Erickson as At-Large members of the WTCA Board was passed unanimously.

### CHAPTER UPDATES

The following is a summary of what was mentioned by chapters that have been actively dealing with issues:

- Alabama Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA)—will be focusing its spring meeting on the topic of mold. It will also review the WTCA policies binder.
- California Engineered Structural Components Association (CalESCA)—recently approved the WTCA policies. It was noted that Anna Stamm, WTCA staff, does a great job setting up their meetings.
- Georgia Component Manufacturers Association (GCMA)—recently had a fire safety seminar on the Carbeck/Houston Fire Department Fire Performance of Wood Trusses program.
- Greater Chicago Area Truss Manufacturers Association (GCTMA)—will be holding its next meeting this spring and will focus on ways to generate more communication and activity among members.
- Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA)—recently had its first fire training seminar for seven local towns. Using the Fire Performance of Wood Trusses CD and related activities, ITMA has received an excellent response from local officials. The chapter also recently made its second \$1,000 donation to the Carbeck foundation and challenged all chapters to take this same proactive step to promote fire performance education. The chapter is also addressing new building codes in Des Moines.
- Mid South Component Manufacturers Association (MSCMA)—its upcoming meeting focus is on the WTCA QC program. There is also interest in doing a presentation to the fire service in Louisiana.

- Northwest Truss Fabricators Association (NWTFA)—has a couple of members who have been very involved in the softwood lumber dispute, including testifying at the ITC hearing in Washington and attending other meetings. The chapter also conducted a seminar for the Structural Engineers Association on truss bracing, repairs and quality in the truss plant. For its winter meeting, Professor Steve Cramer, P.E., of the University of Wisconsin-Madison was invited to give a presentation on quality control.
- North Florida Component Manufacturers Association (NFCMA)—has elected fresh faces for its officers, and they are doing a good job of setting up meetings. The winter meeting featured a local economist from the University of Jacksonville.
- South Florida Truss & Component Manufacturers Association (SFTCMA)—has been working closely with the WTCA to get the sealed placement plan issue resolved. (Editor's note: Great teamwork has resulted in successful resolution.)
- Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association (SNCMA)—enthusiastically supported the 2003 Regional Workshop & Conference in Las Vegas. In addition, it has found the recently released TTB on Drywall Cracking to be invaluable.
- Tennessee Truss Manufacturers Association (TTMA)—members will be attending a training session for 1,600 firefighters. The session will include a presentation of the Carbeck Fire Performance of Wood Trusses CD.
- Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas (TMAT)—recently asked WTCA staff to send the Carbeck Fire Performance of Wood Trusses CD to all fire districts in the state, and is planning to make follow up contacts with all of those districts. The new chapter web site, administered by WTCA staff, is a great help in keeping members informed of the chapter's meeting dates and other information. TMAT is also sponsoring a risk management seminar this spring.
- WTCA-Arizona (WTCA-AZ)—has changed its meetings back from quarterly to monthly. Members prefer monthly meetings and it helps keep participation and activity strong.
- WTCA New York (WTCA - NY)—currently dealing with the IBC and the ramifications of implementation. They have also sent the Carbeck Fire Performance of Wood Trusses CD to a senator who has been responsible for some emotional fervor related to the recent deaths of two members of the fire service. They are working on the implementation of the building labeling law that was promulgated due in part to these deaths. They are actively providing truss plant tours and handing out the Carbeck Fire Performance of Wood Trusses CD and have seen very positive results thus far.
- WTCA Ohio Chapter Association (WTCAOCA)—handed out the Carbeck Fire Performance of Wood Trusses CD at the last meeting, recruited a speaker to discuss the issue of mold, and is beginning to deal with the use of electronic seals and signatures issue. In addition, chapter meetings now begin with a plant tour of a member's facility, and this has really helped spark turnout and involvement.
- Wood Truss Council of the Capital Area (WTCCA)—has successfully resolved a trailer permit issue and recently hosted a speaker on the effect of the IBC in different jurisdictions. WTCCA is planning ahead to deal with fire issues by encouraging the use of plant tours and distributing the Carbeck Fire Performance of Wood Trusses CD.
- Wood Truss Council of Michigan (WTCM)—has successfully resolved the issue of bottom chord live load and the implementation of IBC. The chapter is continuing its educational efforts across the state as well.
- Wood Truss Council of North Carolina (WTCNC)—has focused primarily on resolving the sealed placement plan issue. The chapter is working closely with the NC Department of Insurance to provide details that they need to minimize the requirement for sealed placement plans.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The main areas of Executive Committee work at this time are:

- 2003 priorities and budget
- Nominating committee work
- Qualtim rates and evaluation of 2002 work
- Taking action on SBC Magazine and BCMC questions that arise—primarily policy and financial management.
- Monitoring activities and cost of the U.S. Value-Added Wood Products Alliance (softwood lumber dispute)
- TPI/litmus test issues
- Insurance program updates
- Pricing for all WTCA Services, Publications and Educational Pro-grams. Truss Knowledge Online (TKO) is currently the key program evaluated.

Top 2003 Priorities (per recent membership survey):

- Fire/Market Education
- U.S./Canada Lumber Trade
- Building Code Issues
- Mold
- TTT Online Completion/Truss Knowledge Online Development
- TTB Development
- Labor/Truss Designers issues
- Lumber Quality
- Marketing of Trusses
- Risk Management/Online Resources
- Value Addition Issues
- WTCA QC Revision/Development

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The upshot of the Treasurer's report is that the association continues to be in excellent financial health, with 2002 coming in at a deficit of \$12,000 as compared with a budgeted deficit of about \$200,000. The success of BCMC 2002 had a very positive impact on our fiscal results. Dan Holland encouraged all members and chapters to attend the 2003 BCMC show—there is no better display of mutual benefit for all involved with all proceeds benefiting our industry through project work. He also complimented the WTCA staff on excellent work producing concise, to-the-point project hours summaries, financial and budget information.

WTCA's actual time spent budgets were 96.01 percent of budget for administration, 103.55 percent of budget for budgeted and non-budgeted project work, 100.39 percent of budget for BCMC and 103.92 percent of budget for SBC Magazine. This is consistent with past budget performance.

## **BCMC REPORT**

Barry Dixon, 2003 BCMC Committee Chair, expressed great enthusiasm for this year's show, to be held in Phoenix on October 8-10. He reported that the venue should be fantastic and the programs better than ever. He was so caught up in the moment that he used the word "plethora" in a sentence. There was a brief recess while a committee was formed to look up the definition of that word.

## **STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE UPDATE**

SBC has again contributed strongly to the work activities of our association. Our advertiser support is strong and advertisers report very good feedback from their advertising efforts. Our goals this for 2003 is to continue to work with our membership to ensure that the information we are providing is relevant. Mindy Caldwell will be attending Board and Committee meetings to discuss issues with members. We are always looking for good article content and industry photographs. We will be working with those that said they would assist us in this area. [Editor's note: We are always looking for members that have good photos and desire to help us write about issues that they have a passion for. Please contact us!]

Dan Holland encouraged all members to do business with, and to thank, our advertisers as there is no better investment that an advertiser can make than by supporting his customer's association and the work being done by our group while getting the full benefit of quality advertising.

## **CARBECK STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS INSTITUTE REPORT**

A motion to elect the following directors of the CSCI was passed unanimously:

- Richard Brown - President
- Ken Cloyd - Director
- Eric Lundquist - Director
- Tom Manenti - Director
- Gary Sartor - Director
- Kirk Grundahl - Treasurer
- Kent Pagel - Secretary

## **KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE—PLATES (TOM MANENTI, MITEK, REPORTING)**

- Working with WTCA on a joint publications agreement. Everyone is working toward the goal of harmonizing the two associations' bracing related documents, because both groups agree that our industry is best off from a warning and education of component manufacturer customer's perspective if we have a single set of documents that serve as our fundamental information base when dealing with the storing, handling, installing, bracing and loading of the metal plate connected wood trusses that we manufacture and distribute.
- ANSI/TPI-1 2002 implementation is in May.
- TPI has agreed in principle to contribute \$12,000 to \$15,000 in financial support for the WTCA

work on sealed placement plan issue in Florida.

#### **KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE—CONNECTORS (CARL SCHOENING, SIMPSON STRONG-TIE, REPORTING)**

- All the lumber treatments being evaluated to replace CCA have been shown to be more corrosive than existing treatments.
- Simpson is going to send its treatment testing information to both WTCA and TPI when it is completed, for industry evaluation.

#### **KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE—LUMBER (HELEN GRIFFIN, WEYERHAEUSER CO., REPORTING)**

- Softwood lumber trade negotiations have broken down and no re-start of talks is in sight.
- The 2001 NDS is now available—in both ASD and LRFD formats—through AF"PA.
- Lumber production is simply too high. The industry is now facing increasing competition from European companies.

#### **ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS**

- The Structural Component Distributors Association (SCDA) is focusing on a TTT-like certification approach for EWP technicians.

#### **CM ROUNDTABLE ACTIONS & MOTIONS APPROVED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Passed a motion to approve the 2003 BCMC sponsorship opportunities and the related price list.
- Passed a motion of allow multiple joint sponsors of the BCMC attendee lunch.
- Passed a motion creating the policy that when exhibitors propose innovative sponsorship ideas, they get first opportunity to sponsor that activity that year. The price will be set by the Executive Committee based on the fair market value of the comparable ideas in comparable shows.
- A task force was created to work on an industry data standard.

#### **ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTIONS & MOTIONS APPROVED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Four new TTBs: Builder Advisory on Mold, a revamped Mold TTB for members, Multi-Ply Girders, as well as Drywall Cracking and Crowning.

#### **MARKETING COMMITTEE ACTIONS & MOTIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- The web site is being updated with members-only areas.
- A motion to create a new Truss Knowledge Online program geared toward sales people, suppliers, builders and framers, that contains a general industry overview and key information to help them understand industry issues and aid in their success was passed. It was given the

same priority as the New Hire program.

- A subcommittee of Ken Cloyd and Barry Dixon will become beta sites to help create a template for members to use in marketing the use of QC and TTT.
- WTCA is creating a pre-assessment test for potential new hires. Staff will email the Board to gather information about what we should cover in terms of specific industry information, as well as what is absolutely necessary in terms of skill sets for people who potentially will enter our industry. A subcommittee of Barry Dixon, Mike Ruede, John Herring and Priscilla Becht will review the information and provide perspective to staff.
- Staff will send out the list of TTWs to be developed into online programs and ask everyone to rank these and provide perspective on which ones are most important to finalize, as well as ideas for new programs.
- A subcommittee was created to take photographs of all aspects of our business, from manufacturing all the way to the jobsite, including repairs. This subcommittee will include Jim Finkenhoefer, Ken Cloyd and Priscilla Becht's daughter Heidi.
- This year we will repeat a portion of the market research survey we did last year. We will use an online survey approach.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

- Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 30-May 2 in Washington, D.C.
- The main focus continues to be the U.S./Canada softwood lumber trade dispute.
- The recent ITC 332 study shows that our industry risks losing a lot more jobs under the tariff than are being protected by it in the Coalition companies.
- We are revamping our legislative web site to provide a simple and fun way for members to review legislative issues pertaining to our industry, and provide their perspective and position.
- We are in the process of creating our legislative policy manual for use in our legislative conference. We would appreciate any board member that is interested in reviewing this and providing feedback on issues that they feel are important for our legislators to understand. We will be preparing industry statistics, a summary of key positions and legislative requests and an updated policy manual for our conference.
- It is really important for our industry to have strong representation at the legislative conference. It makes more of a difference on behalf of our industry than most people realize. All members are welcome to attend. A good turnout can only help the good work that we do each year in D.C.

## MANAGEMENT

- One of the highest priority tasks in this committee this year is the creation of an online safety manual and certification program. Putting Risk Management online will be our next highest priority in terms of online programs to create. The work that has been done to date is excellent.
- We are adding some new job positions to our Wage & Benefit Survey.
- The form warranty with Arch was finished six months ago. We performed testing on treated material. The tests went very well—we matched up two sets of trusses—one treated and one untreated, and saw truss performance that was expected and had no surprises. A detailed report on the testing is now being created.
- We have updated our TTB on mold, and have also created a Builders Advisory that provides a

checklist for builders to follow to minimize the amount of mold before close-in.

- We will add key insurance survey data questions to our Financial Performance Survey so that our members have key benchmarks to evaluate their insurance costs.

## TIM NEAL OF THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Captain Neal, the Houston Fire Department representative who worked with CSCI to create the educational videos segments within the CD, was introduced to group. CSCI presented him with a \$2,000 check. HFD put on its first Safety Symposium last November and the money will go towards improving this year's symposium.
- Captain Neal spoke briefly about some recent situations in which sprinkler systems turned potentially disastrous and dangerous fire situations into manageable ones with relatively little damage to the structure and no risk of loss of life.

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