

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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## Editor's Message



Another Successful Year...Thanks to All for Your Support!  
by Scott Arquilla

*"This year's BCMC Show should be the largest and most successful show in our industry's history. I would like to thank our exhibitors for their support of our industry, for without you, our organization would be unable to carry out the many tasks necessary to grow the market for the use of structural building components."*

This issue of Structural Building Components Magazine is published in conjunction with the BCMC Show. I welcome all attendees to Phoenix for another fantastic exhibition. In this, my last article as editor of SBC, I will summarize the WTCA's most notable successes of the past year. In August 2002, we introduced Truss Knowledge Online (TKO) as a training platform for Truss Technician Training (TTT) Level I and, by the end of 2002, TTT Level II was introduced on time and on budget. Earlier this spring, we introduced various Truss Technology Workshops (TTWs) online for the education of architects, engineers and building officials. More of these educational TTWs will follow in the future in response to demand. As of this writing, over 1,080 students have registered for the Level I course and over 230 have registered for the Level II course. In less than one year, these numbers exceeded the 981 total live education attendees for all the Level I and II courses combined, which began in the fall of 1996. Obviously, online training was a product that our members greatly desired. I might add that Level III will be completed by year-end 2003.

Last spring, after eighteen months of much diligent and time consuming work, WTCA, TPI and the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) reached an agreement with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) on Rule 61G15-31.003, Design of Structures Utilizing Prefabricated Wood Trusses. Originally, the FBPE proposed a requirement that all truss layouts be sealed, which strongly suggested that truss design engineers might possibly become an engineer of record on a project. Our work led to this new rule, which will not change the way our industry has traditionally undertaken truss design work in Florida. In fact, it can simplify and reduce the time expended and the expense of the process. With the experience of Florida in hand, we are working closely with building officials in other areas of the country, such as North Carolina and California, which had considered the requirement of sealed truss layouts and are being very successful in with our activities there as well. Our goal in all cases is to forge alliances between local regulators and WTCA Chapters and members so that we take into account each other's perspective when new regulations and building codes are being considered.

Our WTCA publication sales have been growing annually because of one reason: our membership's demands. Staff has kept in touch with our members and has listened to our requests for improved, easier to understand and simplified documents for use in educating our

customers. For example, since we introduced the Jobsite Safety Package in January 2002, we have filled orders for over 43,750 packages (current as of this writing). In each Weekly Board Update, I have read that these packages are impossible to keep in stock because of the increasing demand from our members. Look forward to new publications in the years to follow.

Since April 2002, when we reached an agreement with the TPI Board of Directors on a new Litmus Test, which would more clearly define the responsibilities of both organizations, the spirit of cooperation between WTCA and TPI has been increasingly valuable to our industry. The original goal was to reduce duplication of efforts, but it has grown into a greater respect and understanding of each organization's strengths. The most important news from this cooperative effort will be the introduction of the new series of Building Component Safety Information (BCSI) documents, which will be finalized and introduced by BCMC 2003. The TPI and WTCA Boards have fostered and endorsed this vastly improved, industry-wide single set of documents for our industry (and our customers) with regard to handling, storing, erecting and bracing of structural components. I would like to thank the WTCA membership in its entirety for perspective and feedback in guiding the creation of this work. Without our membership support, none of this work would be possible. Special thanks are also due to each of the TPI Member Companies: Alpine Engineered Products, Cherokee Metal Products, CompuTrus, Eagle Metal Products, MiTek Industries, Robbins Manufacturing Company, TeeLok Corporation and Truswal Systems Corporation, and TPI TAC and WTCA's Engineering & Technology and Marketing Committees for their continued dedication to advancing our industry's work on safety and technology.

Certain individuals have been especially dedicated to making this document possible: Clyde Bartlett, Dave Brakeman, Steve Cabler, Steve Cramer, Bob Dayhoff, Dave Denoncourt, James Gingrich, Kirk Grundahl, Kelly Gutting, Joe Heinsman, Dan Holland, Charlie Hoover, Ted Kolanko, Mike Kozlowski, Stu Lewis, Mike Magid, John Meeks, Joe Michels, Carl Schoening, Marvin Strzyzewski, Gary Sweatt, Bill Turnbull and Ken Watters II.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you must go to those who tended to all the details in the background, without which this document would not yet be completed. This group includes Dave Brakeman, TPI-TAC Chairman; Kelly Gutting, TPI Technical Director; and Anita Meredith, Lora Gilardi, Rachel Smith, Richard Zimmermann, Ryan Dexter and Stan Sias of WTCA staff.

Lastly, in particular, I would like to express my deepest appreciation of and thank you to TPI's President Charles C. Hoover, Jr., P.E. and TPI TAC Chair Dave Brakeman, P.E. for their leadership in creating the cooperative spirit that is and was the key to any successful endeavor where two organizations are involved in advancing joint industry interests. Very few know just how much time and commitment volunteer leadership takes. Thank you, again, Charlie and Dave!

The Carbeck Structural Components Institute (CSCI) completed its first project: an educational program for the fire service, entitled the Fire Performance of Wood Trusses. As of this writing, over 2,500 of these CDs have been distributed to fire department training officers over the country. This program has one goal: to better educate the fire service on the facts concerning fire performance of wood trusses. The reactions from firefighters have been very positive with each viewing. Thank you to Captain Tim Neal of the Houston Fire Department for your great help and to our CSCI supporters for your contributions. Please note, an annual contribution from each member, no matter how small, will allow us to keep providing those CDs to the fire service.

This year's BCMC Show should be the largest and most successful show in our industry's history. I would like to thank our exhibitors for their support of our industry, for without you, our organization would be unable to carry out the many tasks necessary to grow the market for the use of structural building components. Barry Dixon and his BCMC Committee deserve my thanks for their efforts in making this show the best ever.

Further, I would like to also thank the advertisers in SBC Magazine, who also support our industry's work effort through their advertising. With every victory our organization earns, the more components we are able to sell and the more products you are able to sell to us, your customers.

Kirk and Suzi Grundahl have assembled our WTCA staff with one goal: to serve each of our members with the utmost professionalism. I feel quite strongly that each member's concerns and problems are able to be responded to and answered by our team in Madison, WI. I know we could not have a group of people with any more dedication to our industry. When you see staff at BCMC, please thank them for their efforts on our behalf. Thanks to each of you for your valuable work over the past year on our behalf.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors and the Committee Chairs and their members for all of their efforts of the past year. Our successes are very much due to each of your commitments to help make WTCA a better, stronger organization. In addition, our Executive Committee spends countless hours, some at inopportune times, to oversee the day-to-day functions of WTCA. Please also thank your Board members as you see them on the show floor. They work for each member every day. I am confident that Dan Holland and the other new Executive Officers have the utmost ability to move WTCA forward and continually succeed in the years to come.

Thank you to each member for renewing your membership in June. The successes WTCA has are in large part due to your continuing support of our efforts.

Last, thank you to our membership for granting me this opportunity to serve WTCA and the support I have received as our association's President this past year. On a personal note, I will especially remember the many phone calls I received last March after a fire destroyed my company's facility. I can't express my and my family's deep gratitude for the expressions of concern and offers to help from each of you. Your phone calls helped me get through that perilous journey. It is not over yet, but we are well on the way toward rebuilding.

Seven years ago, I attended my first Board meeting, and I have been actively involved with WTCA ever since. If you have not yet become involved in WTCA, consider attending an Open Quarterly Board Meeting. You will realize the importance of each member working together to make our organization even stronger.

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