

Get to Know the New 2006 WTCA Board Members

Every year brings new faces to the WTCA Board of Directors. We would like to help you get to know a little bit more about each of the new members of the 2006 Board. For a complete listing of the 2006 Board of Directors, see page 29 or visit www.woodtruss.com.

New Executive Committee Secretary

Mr. Robert J. Becht, Chambers Truss, Inc.



In the 1950s, I grew up on my father's jobsites. In the 1960s, while in college, I worked at a truss plant. In the 1970s, I was a partner in a computerized truss cutlist company that evolved into a provider of business programs where I became a programmer. In 1981, I left my one man programming business to work for Chambers Truss.

My first task was developing cutlist programs. In 1983, I took over a subsidiary truss company and ran it until 1991. In 1996, I was named the president of Chambers Truss. I computerized Chambers Truss, developing our CutCheck expert program, many other truss programs and all of our business programs.

Chambers Truss is a founding member of South Florida WTCA Chapter and a member of WTCA since 1987. In 1998, I started my first year as president of SFWTCA. I joined the WTCA Board of Directors in 2000. I developed the Chambers Truss Safe Truss Partnership, which as been adopted by WTCA and is accredited by Florida for continuing education. I bring my commitment to safety and advancing truss technology to the WTCA Board backed by 30 years of experience in business, programming and truss manufacture. Being a member of the WTCA Board has exposed me to a world of ideas benefiting Chambers Truss and me.

WTCA is the best means for our industry to meet the challenge of keeping in front of problems. Through the WTCA Florida Executive Committee and other tools, I want to continue to be a part of meeting that challenge.

New At-Large Representatives

Mr. Dean DeHoog, Trussway Ltd.



Dean has been in the construction industry since his high school days. Through high school and college he worked at Wickes Lumber in Grand Rapids, MI. After college he started at Marquette Fabricators as a sales representative in West Michigan and sold trusses to lumber dealers for about 10 years. In 1999, Dean had an opportunity to become involved in sales management and, shortly after that, as general manager of the Michigan operations. This occurred at about the same time that Trussway, a truss company out of Houston, TX, acquired Marquette. Dean currently oversees operations at two production facilities in Sparta, MI, and Michigan City, IN, along with a sales and design office in Bloomington, IL. A great deal of Dean's time is spent assisting his sales team sell major projects in the Midwest.

Dean has been involved with the WTCA for the past ten years in a few primary areas. Trussway's Michigan designers have been actively involved with the online training programs offered by WTCA and the production facilities have been In-Plant WTCA QC certified. The plant in Michigan was the first plant in the state to receive its certification

through WTCA. Dean has also been involved in the Michigan Chapter and works to promote the benefits of other WTCA programs within the Trussway organization.

One of the greatest challenges Dean sees in the Midwest is getting the end users of trusses and components to see the value of these products and not view them as another lumber-related commodity. As WTCA promotes our industry and markets its products, the value and benefits will become evident, assisting truss plants with future success.

Mr. Mike Walsh, P.E., Stock Building Supply, Inc.



Mike is the Director of Manufacturing and Installed Sales for Stock Building Supply working out of Raleigh, NC. Mike heads up corporate initiatives, standardization and strategic direction for the 37 Stock plants throughout the country. Stock has been a member of WTCA since 2000. "Participation itself keeps us abreast of what's going on with codes, challenges for the future, legislative issues," he commented.

Mike looks forward to bringing a foundation for growth to the board, a thought process of continuous improvement and a willingness to try new ideas and new ways of doing things. He has participated in the Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, and is always looking for ways to improve and embrace change. This is his first term on the Board.

Labor is the prominent issue facing our industry in Mike's opinion. It is a challenge to have a ready supply of skilled designers to sustain growth. And it is also a challenge with unskilled designers to maintain quality to keep up with demands, laws and making sure that everyone is playing on a level field.

New Directors Representing Chapters

Ms. Priscilla "Perky" J. Becht, Chambers Truss, Inc., South Florida Chapter



Priscilla, know to everyone as Perky, is the Human Resources Manager, Safety Manager and Credit Manager at Chambers Truss, Inc. in Fort Pierce, FL. In those positions, Perky handles all of the employment issues, quarterly reports, taxes, workers compensation, unemployment and safety issues at Chambers Truss. In particular, she likes working with unemployment because it is a challenge.

Perky attended her first WTCA meeting with her husband Bob over ten years ago at the Douglas Airport in Washington, DC. She has been involved with her local chapter as long as she has been involved with WTCA. In 2005, Perky served as the President of the South Florida Chapter and she is now serving as the Secretary. Perky also has a seat on the Palm Beach County Safety Council Board and is working on getting the safety council to become more active with WTCA.

One talent that Perky will bring to the Board is an extensive knowledge of the "office side of trusses." She is an expert in human resources, collec-

tions, workers comp, immigration issues and legal issues. While serving on the Board, Perky has learned so much that she compares it to getting a college education in trusses. She also feels there is a lot of information to be acquired at BCMC, meetings and from other members.

Technology is the biggest obstacle that Perky sees facing the industry. From a human resources/personnel point of view, if we can become more automated, then we will be ahead of the game.

Mr. Mark A. Casp, Casmin, Inc., Central Florida Chapter



Mark is President/CEO of Casmin, Inc. headquartered in Leesburg, FL. Mark has been in the component industry for 23 years. His job entails a lot of leadership and strategic planning and he enjoys "coaching the team and seeing the company achieve nice results." Casmin has several manufacturing facilities in Florida and is a long-time member of WTCA. Mark and his company have been active in the local Central Florida Chapter for many years.

Mark is looking forward to contributing to the Board and acting as a communicative voice between his local chapter and WTCA-National. Mark attended his first Board Meeting in October, and he is looking forward to becoming more involved with the Marketing and QC Committees. He is excited for the opportunity to learn from the industry's many talented individuals.

Mark feels there are more than enough challenges facing our industry, including immigration, insurance issues and onerous governmental regulations. Another key issue for Mark is the diminishing quality of construction crews out in the field. He sees this as an opportunity to provide a wider range of components to builders who seek to build a quality home.

Mr. Ted Kolanko, P.E., 84 Components, Tennessee Chapter



Ted started in the wood truss industry with Hydro-Air Engineering (now MiTek) in July 1979. His primary focus has been engineering seal review and repair specifications, but he enjoys getting out to do forensic work because of the unique challenges when determining cause and effect. Ted is also known for his temporary bracing models which he makes for the industry—over 135 models have been distributed to date. His current position is Regional Engineering Manager for 84 Lumber/84 Components.

Ted has been involved with WTCA for many years. In addition to making the bracing models, which are marketed through WTCA, he has been attending the Engineering & Technology Committee meetings. He was a member of TPI TAC from the time that Cherokee Metal Products became a member of TPI. In addition, Ted has been involved with the Tennessee Chapter since its formation and became Chapter President in 2006.

The experience that Ted will bring to the Board includes his engineering knowledge of truss design and manufacturing, his long involvement in the truss industry and his work with TPI TAC and the E&T Committee. As for the challenges ahead, Ted sees the increasing demand for sealed engineered truss drawings, the constant battle against sealed layouts, and the issues and opportunities that will arise from whole house design.

Continued on page 34



Certified Operation Safety Coordinators

Steve Baker*

Plum Building Systems, Osceola, IA

Jean Blackwood

TJ Truss Corp., Fort Pierce, FL

Jerry Denny

Carter-Lee Lumber Co., Mooresville, IN

Johnny Fuller*

Sun State Components, Inc., North Las Vegas, NV

Leo Gandera*

Sun State Components of Northern Arizona, Inc., Kingman, AZ

Fred Gilbert

Jack Walters & Sons, Corp., Fairfield, IL

Zak Lindell*

Manion Truss and Components, Superior, WI

Gerald Macon*

Spenard Builders Supply, Anchorage, AK

Tim Matteson

Sun State Components, Inc., Surprise, AZ

Herbie McIntosh*

Eckman Building Components, Lehigh, PA

David L. Meadows

Automated Structures, Inc., Ogden, UT

Randall Nakaya

HPM Building Supply, Keaau, HI

Jeff Olson

Walters Buildings, Allenton, WI

David Swaney*

Spenard Builders Supply, Anchorage, AK

Chad Sweitzer

Plum Building Systems, New Hampton, IA

As of March 1, 2006

***Also Operation Safety Plant Certified.**

For reader service, go to www.sbcmag.info/wtca.htm

**Mr. Michael Redmon, Carolina Truss Systems, Inc.,
South Carolina Chapter**



Mike has been in the truss industry for 10 years. Currently, as General Manager of Carolina Truss Systems in Summerville, SC, he oversees sales, design, production and shipping. What he enjoys most in his job, however, is when he is able to take a hands-on role in the production of trusses or on the jobsite. He likes spending time in the shop building something as well as walking the jobsite, dealing with customers and seeing how the components are put to use.

Carolina Truss Systems was a longtime member of WTCA even before its acquisition by Stark Truss Company. Mike has been active in WTCA for five years. In addition, Mike helped relaunch of the South Carolina Chapter in 2005 and is serving as Chapter President.

Mike hopes to bring to the Board new ideas and he looks forward to meeting challenges and helping our industry grow. In South Carolina specifically and in the industry as a whole, there are perennial challenges but also opportunities. For example, getting municipalities to understand new codes can be difficult, but doing so helps our businesses and our industry. Education is key to continued growth and profitability.

**Mr. Mark H. Rose, Manning Building Supplies,
North Florida Chapter**



Mark has been associated with the component industry for 16 years, but only at Manning Building Supplies for one year. The prior 15 years he worked in the engineered wood industry with 10-½ years at Trus Joist, 1-½ years self-employed with Tennessee Structures and three years with Huber Engineered Woods. Mark is currently employed as General Manager of Manning's Jacksonville, FL truss operation and has been involved with WTCA since joining Manning.

Mark holds an undergraduate degree in Architecture from Memphis State University and an MBA from The University of Phoenix. He is a licensed contractor and has a lifelong passion for architecture, construction and structures in general. With experience in markets ranging from the Midwest, to the southcentral U.S., to the Southeast, Mark has a broad knowledge of construction practices and techniques. He feels his limited experience in plated component manufacturing lends itself to creative thinking and fresh ideas and is excited about bringing his outside the box mentality to the WTCA. Being involved with the WTCA will help broaden Mark's understanding of the component industry through the relationships he hopes to develop with other members.

Complete system analysis, design, sale and fabrication are a few of the many advantages of the component industry. Today's society demands more for less and through value engineering and just-in-time supply, the component industry can satisfy this desire. In contrast, Mark feels that one of the greatest challenges to the industry is the available work force. The lack of responsible skilled workers is an ongoing challenge to keeping the production facility operating in an efficient, profitable manner. Workers with skill sets conducive to component fabrication along with a responsible mentality are scarce, therefore, developmental programs ranging from design to fabrication to quality control are critical to the future of our industry and its vision as a viable career.

Mr. Dave Walstad, U.S. Components, Inc., Mid Atlantic Chapter



Dave started in the family lumber and truss business at Verona Lumber in Wisconsin after graduating from Madison Area Technical College with a degree in Architecture. He worked in all aspects of the lumber and truss business from sales to production to operations and design. After the company was sold in 1986, he worked for Stock Lumber in Green Bay for ten years, starting in design and becoming plant manager and involved with startups and acquisitions as well as lumber purchasing. Needing to start something new, he moved to Atlanta to do a startup in steel truss only and had the opportunity to move to New Jersey. He is now VP of Manufacturing for the Strober Organization as senior officer of the parent company as well as the President and COO of U.S. Components.

With his involvement in WTCA and local chapters spanning several states, Dave has served as President, Vice President and Board member of the Wisconsin Chapter as well as President and Board member of the Mid Atlantic Chapter. He has been involved in the truss and component business actively for over 26 years not including the times as a kid roaming around the lumber and truss plant that his father ran.

Dave will bring to the Board his extensive experience with multi-plant and multi-lumber yard environments and he will be able to add perspectives on the interaction between truss shops and lumber yards. Working with a large conglomerate, he will be able to share insight as well as learn from fellow members.

The challenge Dave sees for our industry is also an opportunity—resolving local conflicts and finding common ground. In our day-to-day operations, we face many levels of red tape and differing code enforcement: township, county, state. While the differing demands placed upon manufacturers present immediate challenges, they also open the door to developing relationships. For example, a township that asks for sealed layouts, even though the code does not, represents a hurdle, but working together to remove these hurdles will benefit us individually and as an industry.

Mr. Scott Ward, Southern Components, Inc., Mid South Chapter



Growing up with a family-owned business, Scott has been around the truss industry all of his life. He started working for Southern Components after attending college in 1995. In his current position as Production Supervisor, he oversees the human resources decisions as well as managing the flow of material coming from the engineering department until it leaves through the gate. The part of his job he enjoys most is the personal interactions and the constant learning that comes from working with people.

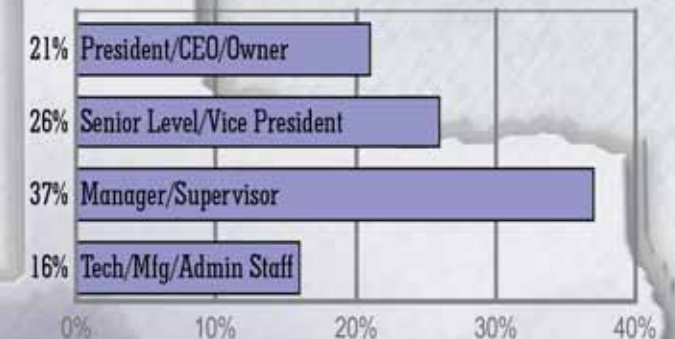
Southern Components has been a WTCA member from the start. It was Louisiana's first and the nation's fourth certified user of In-Plant WTCA QC. Scott has attended numerous BCMC shows and is deepening his involvement in the recently reinvigorated Mid South Chapter. By being on the Board, Scott is looking forward to serving and learning. He is anxious to be of help to our association and therefore our industry.

The most important ingredient for success that Scott sees is maintaining a focus on quality. He has helped restructure his company so that they do not focus on price but on quality. Likewise, it is essential that the component industry maintain its reputation as people who care about what they do and deliver a quality product. **SBC**

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