



Publisher's Message

Next Stop—2008!

by Libby Maurer

Boom or bust, the industry looks forward to 2008.

We're almost there—2008. After a landmark year of declining housing starts, living in the moment has lost its appeal. For the last issue of the year, we turn to topics that will momentarily distract you: manufacturing and quality control.

Don't be shy—we know some of you out there think quality control is downright painful. Believe it or not, it doesn't have to be. For instance, check out the new Inspector Training modules now available for In-Plant WTCA QC users. As the article on page 30 reveals, this new tool makes learning the inspection process much more convenient and easy. And on page 24, hear the Truss Plate Institute's perspective on how component manufacturers can begin to view the 3rd party quality assurance audit process as a learning and improvement tool—not an invasive inconvenience. So you really can take QC from painful to painless!

When an inspector inspected lumber in walls and trusses on an Alabama jobsite in 2006 and questioned the grades of lumber used, the manufacturer who supplied the trusses contacted WTCA. The incident prompted several discussions during WTCA Board meetings about the topic of lumber grading in general, and more specifically, what is meant by the rule allowing 5% of lumber to be off-grade. Turn to page 36 for a discussion about grading.



We're always touting teamwork, a concept best explained by example. For over a year now, a coalition of manufacturers, builders and building contractors in California have worked side by side to get legislation passed that would allow component manufacturers to haul wall panels horizontally on a flat-bed trailer. Get the whole scoop in "David (and his friends) versus Goliath" on page 42. Without a strong team to raise a voice for the California building industry, the outcome may not have been as favorable.

BCMC 2007 in Columbus was lively and well-attended, with component manufacturer decision-makers making an impressive showing. See page 64 for a complete show recap.

In "Get to Know the Hidden Benefits of Member Meetings," some active Board members talk about the value they—and their companies—get from participating in WTCA's policy-setting group. Things like collaborating on projects, asking for advice on equipment purchases, and exchanging benchmarking information are well worth the time commitment of serving on the Board for these members.

Finally, don't miss our look back at the BCMC show on page 64. The sluggish housing market didn't keep the industry from coming together for its annual three-ring truss industry circus. BCMC 2007 in Columbus was lively and well-attended, with component manufacturer decision-makers making an impressive showing. Doom and gloom stayed away thanks to Keynote Lou Holtz, a humid fall breeze and the hope for any sign of recovery in 2008. **SBC**

at a glance

- This issue covers topics relating to quality assurance and manufacturing.
- Find a Recap of BCMC 2007 on page 64 and an exhibitor directory on page 71.
- Turn to pages 24 and 30 for updates on In-Plant WTCA QC and TPI's 3rd Party Inspection service.



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