

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS) March 2000



WTCA QC

Bustin' Out All Over! by Jay Edgar

There is one adage that comes to me quite often in my life: Be careful what you ask for, 'cuz you just might get it! This saying, for me, sums up the current state of the *WTCA QC* program.

When *WTCA* released *WTCA QC* version 3.0 in September 1996, not a lot happened. Kind of like Y2K. I was surprised that it seemed as though people weren't seeing as easily as I was the value the program had and the way it could serve them. I couldn't believe they weren't clamoring to be involved! Indeed, it was a bit disheartening to me that, as project manager, I couldn't get more people more interested. Kirk began telling me: "Don't worry. It'll happen." Well, he was right.

As the title of this article suggests, interest in *WTCA QC* has exploded. Indeed, I get so many requests for information and people asking to discuss the program with me, that I have a hard time keeping up with all the voicemail and email! I am also in the throes of winter trainings, having just completed those for twelve of Stark Truss's locations that took place in three of their plants. I also did training for Engineered Structural Systems last week. This week holds a presentation for the Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association and training for Powell Structural Systems (OH). Next week I go to Allwood Building Components (MI), and the following week finds me at Home Lumber (CO). By the time you read this article I expect that March will be booked solid.

The increased interest in the program seemed to manifest around the time of BCMC '99. To tell the truth, I'm not completely sure what caused all the calls to start coming in. Was it *WTCA*'s advertising for the past four years? The articles that have been going in *WOODWORDS* every month contributed by kind folks like Keith Kinser (Kintec), Scott Ward (Southern Components), Rich Pearce and Dave Rondeau (Richco) with Melinda Caldwell (*WTCA* Staff), Kent Pagel and other members of *WTCA*'s Staff? Or perhaps it was the presentations at BCMC for two years in a row; the chapter presentations given to Iowa, Missouri, Capital Area, South Florida and Southern Nevada; concerns raised because of

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Certification
in Process

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liability exposure or increased emphasis on quality by the building codes?

I imagine it is due to a combination of all of these things.

I would like to thank all the individuals named above as well as those within the chapters who invited me to their meetings to share information on *WTCA QC*. I would also like to thank everyone who has been active on the Quality Control Committee, as well as those who have been directors and officers for WTCA, as they have set an example of believing in the importance of quality control. Thanks also go to the three certified third party inspection agencies (Timber Products Inspection, Inc., Conyers, GA; Truss Plate Institute, Madison, WI; & Southern Pine Inspection Bureau, Pensacola, FL), who are helping WTCA ensure that certification in the program means something, as well as those agencies who will be certified this year.

I would like to congratulate the truss manufacturers who have been breaking ground in our industry by becoming the first companies certified in the use of *WTCA QC*. They will not be alone for long, judging from the list of companies who are in the process of certification. Some of these companies are determined to complete their certification quite soon and in record time.

Phases I (program and software design), II (implementation of the certification program for manufacturers) and III (implementation of the certification program for third party inspection agencies) are complete. WTCA is now focusing on Phase IV, which includes creation of a marketing program that will assist certified companies in advertising their commitment to quality within their area to customers and potential customers, as well as other efforts of improving communication and relations with architects, engineers and building officials. Future phases of the program will have greater positive effects on our industry as a whole, but that is for another article at another time.

Finally, I would like to thank other members of WTCA Staff, both past and present, who have worked diligently on *WTCA QC*, and who provided the team that was required to make our program grow. I am very excited about where *WTCA QC* is today, and plan on getting even more excited with the wonderful things that will happen in the future. Be sure to check this column in future issues of *WOODWORDS* to learn about new developments.

If you are interested in learning more about implementing the program, the best time to call WTCA is NOW! (608/274-4849)

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